

'Preview' today in The Times

Preview appears today as two pages in the main section of The Times (pages 10 and 11) and not as a separate section because of production difficulties caused by the non-availability of The Times. Next week's preview will be back to its normal 16 pages.

Postal charges to rise

Postal charges are to rise by about 10 per cent early in the new year. Increases will be submitted next week by the Post Office to the Post Office Users National Council. The rise of a first class letter will be to 35p, and for second class to 12p. Back page

Valesa to face three challenges

Three challengers are fighting Mr Lech Walesa for the chairmanship of Solidarity, the independent Polish trade union. The new leader will be elected by the union's national congress meeting in Gdansk. Most observers expect Mr Walesa to fend off the challenge. Page 6

SDP may go for 'safe' Tory seat

A Conservative majority of 19,272 at the last general election may not be large enough to deter a prominent Social Democrat, perhaps Mrs Shirley Williams, from contesting the Crosby Parliamentary seat, which became vacant with the death of Sir Graham Page yesterday. Page 2

US selling more grain to Russia

American negotiators said they expect the Soviet Union to buy 19 million tonnes of United States grain in addition to the eight million tonne purchase already agreed. The Soviet crop is likely to fall 70 million tonnes short of target.

Exiles challenge Khomeini

Mr Bani-Sadr, the former President of Iran, and Mr Masud Rajavi, the leader of the People's Mujahidin guerrillas, who are both exiled in Paris, have formed a "Provisional government of the Democratic Islamic Republic of Iran". Page 6

Slack of the law for breadmakers

Bread companies are to be forced by law to declare ingredients on the wrapper of their loaves. Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, said she could see no case for continuing the exemption of wrapped bread. Page 3

Power imbalance is deplored

Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Melbourne deplored the growing imbalance of power between East and West. The non-aligned appeared rather muted and it was left to Mrs Indira Gandhi to drive the Commonwealth to play a mediating role between the superpowers. Page 6

Irish to review constitution

At Peter Swierland, the Irish Attorney-General, is to conduct a review of the 1937 Irish Constitution, after the hope expressed by Dr Garret Fitz-Gerald, the Prime Minister, for an end to sectarianism. Northern Ireland and divorce are two important areas of proposed change. Page 2

New editor

Arthur Firth, editor of the Daily Express, is being replaced after only one year by Christopher Ward, assistant editor of the Daily Mirror. Page 12

Leader, page 12
Letters: On North Sea gas, from the Chairman of Shell UK Ltd, and Dr W. P. S. Tan; high speed trains, from Professor P. B. Fellgett, and others
Leading articles: Unilateralism; Interest rates

Features, page 12
Shirley Williams denounces a "shabby conspiracy" against the European Community; David Watt on the temporary truce in the Labour Party; and in France, the Iranian exiles are squabbling over power
Sir John Rennie, Sir Stanley Davidson, Mr George Pulay
Rich man, poor man: The 1981 Annual Financial Review with The Times today, sets the scene for the North-South economic summit, opening in Mexico on October 22

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Mortgages set to rise as banks' rate reaches 16%

By John Whitmore

The leading High Street banks have raised their base lending rates from 14 to 16 per cent, making an overall rise of 4 per cent in their interest rates in little more than a fortnight.

The Building Societies Association responded immediately saying that the rise in bank interest rates underlines the inevitability of a rise in their rates.

Building society chiefs meet next Friday to decide on a new rate structure. It seems certain that the basic mortgage rate will return to at least 15 per cent.

Some societies feel it may have to go to 15½ or 16 per cent, adding up to £18 a month gross repayments on the average existing mortgage (about £8,000) and up to £35 a month to repayments on the average new mortgage (about £15,000).

Employers estimated that the latest two increases in bank rates would add about £1,000 to industry's costs.

Sir Raymond Pennock, president of the CBI, said that the increase in interest rates would tend to raise prices and reduce investment. It was now even more urgent that the Government cut the National Insurance surcharge, which was simply a tax on jobs.

Mr Peter Shore, shadow Chancellor, attacked the Government over the new rise. "This is another disastrous chapter in the mismanagement of the economy by this Government," he said.

But Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said on TV's News at Ten that though higher interest rates were uncomfortable, he did not think "there is any reason to conclude that we are going to go on going down. The signs are that we have come to the end of the downward turn and I think it depends very much on how we ourselves perform".

Sir Geoffrey stressed the need to contain public spending and public borrowing, to get pay settlements down and to increase productivity.

The latest rise largely reflects high interest rates overseas, particularly in the United States, and the strength of credit demand at home.

The Government and the

Bank	Rate	Rate	Monthly cost of £1,000
			on overdraft
Barclays	14½	15½ (Nov 1)	13.04
Lloyds	14½	15½	11.91
NatWest	13½	14½	12.89
		(from Oct 8)	

* Subject to review
Business News, page 19

Dead prisoner's wife may prosecute

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Within hours of the Director of Public Prosecutions disclosing yesterday that he had in effect closed the file in the case of Mr Barry Prosser, who was unlawfully killed in Winslow Green prison, Birmingham, the family's solicitor said: "We are looking at all the avenues for bringing the persons responsible to justice."

On Wednesday, Mr F. H. Hatchard, the Birmingham stipendiary magistrate, told three hospital officers from the prison that they would not be sent for trial accused of the murder of Mr Prosser, who was aged 32. After an eight-day committal hearing, the magistrate said that taking the evidence at its highest, a jury could not properly convict any of the accused men.

An official of the DPP's department said yesterday: "I am informed that we have no intention of instituting further proceedings; as far as we are concerned the matter is closed."

Mr Martin Dudley, West Midlands, the solicitor acting for Mrs Dorothy Prosser, the widow, and her two children, Darren, aged 12 and Alison, aged six, said: "We are considering the possibility of a private prosecution."

"It is a very difficult case. Obviously for individuals to take up a case like this is not only extraordinarily expensive, but also unusual," he said.

He said he had written to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, seeking some form of public inquiry "because I think that the whole

thing needs resolving". He had also opened a claim with the Home Office in the hope of getting compensation for Mrs Prosser and her children.

Mr Kent-Davies, who told of the Director's statement, said: "We have never thought about anybody else but the DPP bringing prosecution proceedings, but now I have got to look at it from the point of view that if my client wants justice, it is left in her hands."

At her home at Sedgley, West Midlands, Mrs Prosser said she had recovered somewhat from her emotional state on Wednesday. She said: "I can only thank the many people who have contacted me and members of the family for their warm response during the last 24 hours, and for the many offers of financial help including a large one from a businessman who wishes to remain anonymous."

"Starting this Saturday, members of the family and myself will be mounting a two-to-three-hour vigil of protest outside the gates of Birmingham prison. We shall be there from about 12.30 until midnight, and will continue every Saturday for the foreseeable future. I intend anyone who wants to give their support to join us there."

When the three prison officers were discharged, Mrs Prosser wept, and said: "I usually outside the court that three pathologists had given evidence that her husband could not have inflicted his injuries on himself. She continued on page 2



First move by Victor Korchnoi challenging Anatoli Karpov for the world championship at Merano. Report, page 6

Labour manifesto stays with MPs after two contradictory votes

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Brighton

The long campaign by the left wing of the Labour Party to give control of the election manifesto to the national executive committee was defeated in Brighton yesterday for the third successive year.

The party conference also agreed yesterday that a future Labour government would take Britain out of the European Community without a referendum.

The manifesto debate ended, in Labour's hallowed tradition, with two contradictory votes. The first approved the proposed change; the second and decisive one disallowed it.

The result was another success for Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, who warned delegates that any change would injure the partnership between the conference and Labour MPs.

After the decision this week to allow constitutional debates only once every three years, this may also be the last move for the time being for structural changes in the party which Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Denis Healey have advocated at the last six party conferences.

Mr Foot said on BBC television last night that the decision not to continue with constitutional disputes over the next two or three years might turn out to be the most important of the conference. He hoped that the party would now be much more united.

Mr Benn's own future had by last night become the subject of intense speculation as Mr Foot said to vote for Mr Benn, are held to have lost him the deputy leadership.

But Mr Foot made it plain

again yesterday, that he wants Mr Benn back on the front bench in Parliament. "It is perfectly possible for us to form a Shadow Cabinet in which Denis Healey and Tony Benn can play a continuous leading part", he said on television.

He hoped they would both be prepared to serve in government, too, and that none of Labour's front bench spokesmen would say they were not prepared to serve until they had seen the next election manifesto.

Mr Benn has not said whether he is ready to stand for election to the Shadow Cabinet in the new Parliament. One of his difficulties is that he will wish to speak over the whole range of party policy, as he has done in recent months. By convention, the holder of a shadow Cabinet post does not comment on his colleagues' areas of responsibility.

Some of Mr Benn's friends are urging him to insist on terms: "Mr Foot may be like him, for instance, to insist on the removal of the present defence spokesman, Mr Bryanor John, who is opposed to unilateral disarmament which the conference voted for on Wednesday."

Mr Benn said yesterday that it had been a good week. The party had good, relevant policies, but the slight query was that the front bench spokesmen were not really in agreement with the policies. The conference had agreed. Would they really be carried out?

He did not accept that his willingness to stand for election to the Shadow Cabinet was a test of the party's unity. "I think we've got to unite in Parliament around the policies."

The move to put the manifesto into the hands of the NEC is rooted in the constitu-

ency activists' distrust of Labour MPs, and of the powers of the leader.

Mr Charles Kelly, of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, one of those voted off the NEC this week, yesterday spoke of the "disgusted contempt" of some previous party leaders for conference decisions.

Mr Foot insisted during the debate that the leader had no veto under the present party constitution, which entrusts preparation of the manifesto to a joint meeting of the NEC and the Shadow Cabinet.

"No leader of the party has a veto," the leader put what he had to say to the meeting, and they had to make up their minds whether to accept it, he said.

The change blocked yesterday was one of three main objectives of the left reformers, together designed to extend what they call party democracy and to increase the accountability of MPs and of the parliamentary leaders to the party outside Parliament.

Their two other main objectives, the electoral college for choosing the leadership and mandatory reselection of MPs, have been largely attained. But Benites reformers are still not happy with the workings of reselection because some sitting MPs have been protected from challenge by a device known as the "short list of one" which excludes rival nominees.

So, for the moment, the Benites must rest with perhaps only one and a half of their objectives reached, uncertain whether even some of the ground they hold may be taken back by the NEC.

The conflicting votes on the manifesto were occasioned by the shopworkers' union, USDAW, who cast their 437,000 votes for the change and then against it.

Continued on back page, col 3

BL faces a battle over 4%

BL is expected to risk a confrontation with its 38,000 car workers today by offering a non-negotiable 4 per cent wage increase in reply to the men's claim for 20 per cent.

Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, BL Cars personnel director, will tell the 38,000 workers in manual unions at the company's training centre near Warwick that with losses at £10m a day, even that small increase must be paid for by improved productivity.

The leader of the union negotiating team, Mr Grenville Hawley, national automotive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, has already said that if the company's offer does not take account of the present inflation rate, the unions will find it difficult to persuade their members to continue cooperating in BL's recovery.

The biggest opposition to today's offer will come from the 1,000 manual workers at Longbridge.

Sinivah, killing one person and wounding another. Ten car bombings have been reported in Lebanon in the past two weeks.

Several of the attacks were claimed by the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners.

Mr Shafiq Wazzan, the Lebanese Prime Minister, blamed Israel for the Beirut attack. Mr Wazzan said that Israel was "solely responsible because agents of the Jewish state were either directly or indirectly behind attacks on civilian targets in Lebanon."

The PLO news agency, Wafa, also accused Israel of the "entire responsibility for this original act". Mr Mohsen Ibrahim, secretary-general of the leftist Lebanese National Movement, said Israeli-backed rightist Christian militia caused the

biast—AFP.

The burnt-out dons who fade away on full pay

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Aging, burnt-out dons who are no longer capable of carrying out their full teaching and research activities, and the tenure system that protects them were sharply criticized yesterday by Sir Peter Swinerton-Dyer, the outgoing vice-chancellor of Cambridge University.

Sir Peter, aged 54, was giving the inaugural ceremony in Cambridge of the new vice-chancellor, Professor Harry Hinsley, Master of St John's, who is 62.

"Many academics, as they age, do not abruptly move from full work to retirement," Sir Peter said. "On the one hand, they abandon all research for administration, which is reasonable enough; but in due course they claim that they have done their fair share of administrative and non-research work, without returning to research."

"At the same time, the effort they put into teaching falls off year after year. Some of them appear less and less in lecture room and laboratory; others merely give the same aging lecture notes."

"It would recognize the realities of the situation if they held part-time office. But here, as in every university, there are academics who draw a full day's pay for half a day's work; and it is tenure that protects this state of affairs."

Tenure was given too easily and too soon. In most universities, initial appointments were for a three-year probationary period, followed by appointment until retiring age of 65 in most universities, 67 in Cambridge and Oxford. If that period were satisfactorily completed. In practice, the decision had to be taken within two years and the pressures to give

Len Murray signature seals peace for Sunday Times

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The dispute at The Sunday Times, which has cost Times Newspapers Ltd more than £1m, was settled last night when the machine minders at the centre of the dispute accepted an agreement drawn up after Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, stepped in as mediator. This weekend's issue of the newspaper will appear normally.

A new formula agreed during discussions in the early hours yesterday between Mr Murray, Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of TNL, and leaders of the National Graphical Association, was approved last night by a meeting of the 101-strong machine minders' chapel (union office branch).

Mr Murdoch said after their decision was announced: "We are delighted that a common sense has prevailed but the position remains that if there is any disturbance to regular production, the people concerned will be given a 24-hour warning. We cannot afford another incident such as this which has already cost us more than £1m."

Negotiations will be sought immediately with all the major unions concerning the urgent necessity for improvements in efficiency and large scale economies.

"Already Times Newspapers Ltd is earning £100m a year in revenues and it is an absurdity that these newspapers should not have a profitable and expanding future on such a base," Mr Murdoch said.

Mr Murray said after the meeting: "I welcome the fact that all parties to the dispute have been able to agree to a solution which while requiring compromise on all sides, is an honest and practical one."

"All were conscious not only of the importance of these newspapers in our national life but of the many thousands of jobs which were at stake. I think that all have learned lessons which will help to ensure the avoidance of difficulties in the future."

Mr Victor Dunn, father (shop steward) of the machine room chapel said after the meeting: "The main significance is that the machine minders were required to be signed by the father of the chapel which was something my chapel refused because they thought this was an attempt to put the FOC in an impossible position because he was always a general secretary, not a shop steward."

"We have an acceptance that the chapel will be going back with some sort of dignity whereas the intent before was to take them back without it," Mr Dunn said.

He considered that the agreement would be honoured by the chapel in view of the fact that the leader of the union, Mr Dixon, was one of the signatories.

"As far as we are concerned, we were very conscious of the threat which was placed on other people who were suspended in a dispute which was nothing to do with them," Mr Dunn said.

The meeting passed a resolution which authorized four senior officials of the NGA to sign the return to work formula which would also be signed and witnessed by Mr Murray.

The original formula was agreed between the company and national officials of all the print unions during a meeting of the TUC on Tuesday, which was chaired by Mr Murray. But the machine minders refused to sign the document at a meeting on Wednesday night.

Mr Dunn received over-whelming backing at his Wednesday night meeting for refusing to sign the document himself. The change allowing national officials to sign was agreed during 2 am telephone conversations between Mr Murray, who was meeting the NGA officials at the TUC early yesterday and Mr Murdoch at TNL offices.

Mr Murray requested that the proposals should not be made public because it might jeopardise last night's meeting of the machine minders and a news blackout was imposed.

Following the chapel meeting the return to work formula signed by Mr Murray, Mr Dixon, Mr Tony Dobbins, NGA assistant general secretary, Mr George Brown, national officer and Mr Bill Booroff, London regional official, was sent to Times Newspapers headquarters.

The formula, which involves no increase in wages, includes a union guarantee for uninterrupted production and strict observance of agreed disputes procedures for management and unions. Following the return to work, tripartite talks will be held between the union, management and the other main union concerned, the National Society of Operative Printers and Media Personnel, to seek a joint NGA/Natops press room agreement.

The Sunday Times did not appear last weekend after the company suspended all its 1,400 employees in response to an NGA threat to disrupt production and a subsequent refusal to give a guarantee of normal working.

The Times also failed to appear on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after an official union picket line was placed around the building which NGA members at The Times were instructed not to cross. Some of the Sunday Times machine managers, thought to number about 30, also work full time for The Times.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Murray issued a statement in which he said he wanted "to deny absolutely and categorically" stories in the press that I have at any time asked NGA national representatives the withdrawal of cards from members of The Sunday Times machine chapel."

He said: "I confirm the statement by the general president of the NGA (Mr Dixon) that these stories are absolutely untrue and misleading."

Mr Dixon also categorically denied a report in The Standard that the NGA was considering withdrawing union membership from the machine minders.

He said: "It is just not true. Whoever has told the press is being malicious. Whoever has made the statement must have a vested interest in seeing that a settlement at The Sunday Times is not reached."

Mr Murdoch and Mr Dixon thanked Mr Murray for his efforts. Mr Dixon said he hoped other unions at Times Newspapers would show an equal responsibility.

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Tebbit considers legal end to union immunities

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Government is considering a legal definition of trade union responsibility that would put the labour movement's funds at risk from civil action mounted by employers.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, told a delegation from the Institute of Directors yesterday that that was one of the tough new sanctions being examined by his officials.

The minister is known to be ready to go for a much stronger package of measures than that envisaged by Mr James Prior, his predecessor, whose "step by step" approach to the reform of industrial relations law looks like being abandoned.

The directors' organisation decided after talking to Mr Tebbit that it was "putting an open door" in seeking stronger curbs on union power. But he is said to have told it that any legislation must be "lawyer proof, fool-proof and vandal proof".

Departmental lawyers are understood to be considering a change in the legal status of unions so that they could be held liable for damages if industrial action could be ended. If Mr Tebbit has his way, the unions will revert to their pre-1974 status as corporate bodies. They could then be sued for damages in the High Court for acts committed by members or officials.

The minister is also said to be looking at the possibility of withdrawing immunity from unions and groups of workers engaged in industrial action in breach of agreed disputes procedures.

The aim would be to make "wildcat" strikers think twice before they embarked on unofficial stoppages in pursuit of pay claims or other demands, as they and their unions could face big claims for damages.

In the package being prepared by his civil servants, punitive damages would be available for people who lost their jobs for refusing to join a trade union where there was a closed shop, and "labour only" commercial contracts would be outlawed.

Mr Tebbit is still thinking about the question of secret ballots and how they might be extended in the labour market. He is also considering compulsory voting in this way for election to national trade union offices.

He could, however, make immunity for secondary industrial action contingent upon a secret ballot of the workers involved, and his department is still examining the possibility that state employees who work in essential public services could be asked to give up the right to strike in return for assurances on pay and status.

School meal staff may lose holiday pay

By Donald MacIntyre

Up to 300,000 school meals staff may lose the half-pay remission they receive in school holidays under proposals that are being considered by local authority employers.

The employers have given notice to the unions that they may seek changes in working agreements for school meals staff in this month's negotiations on the pay of one million manual workers.

Three possible changes are an end to the system whereby school meals staff, the biggest single group of local authority manual workers, receive half pay for 13 weeks, move towards reducing subsidies on their own meals taken in working hours, and a reduction in normal holiday pay.

The employers emphasized yesterday that no firm decisions had been taken about this year's negotiating strategy; but union leaders are preparing to resist the proposals which they expect to be raised at the first negotiating meeting in two weeks.

One effect would be to reduce the cost to local authorities who are under acute financial pressure from the Government, of an offer which the unions expect to be closely in line with the Cabinet's 4 per cent pay guide line for nearly five million public service workers.

At present, cooks, assistant cooks and dining ladies, most of whom are part-time, receive half their normal pay in the school holidays. The rate is £50 for a 40-hour week. Hours range from two-and-a-half per day to five.

At present £146p per hour is deducted as an "abatement" towards the cost of subsidized meals which staff receive when they are at work. One option is to end the present system and charge an "economic" cost for meals eaten by the staff.

Attempts by one authority, Lincolnshire, to introduce changes in conditions of school meals staff have been successfully resisted by union leaders who argued that the issue was covered by national agreements.

Mr Ronald Keating, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), said yesterday: "The unions will resist these attempts by the employers to roll back conditions of service which have been hard fought for over many years. We do not exist as trade unions to turn the clock back."

The employers side of the national joint council for manual workers said yesterday: "There have been some discussions with the trade union side but we have not received their claim yet. We will consult with authorities on the response to the claim put forward."

This year's 21-week Civil Service pay dispute cost the Government far more than if Mrs Thatcher had paid the claim in full, the unions said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The Council of Civil Service Unions said that although the Government had deliberately played down the dispute's impact, its effects were felt by almost all the sections of the community.

In its introductory note to the Civil Service pay inquiry under Sir John Megaw, the council said the Treasury admitted that the Government had to pay an extra £150m in interest enough to finance a further five per cent rise.

CB radio licences to cost £10

By Kenneth Gosling

Citizen's band radio becomes legal from November 2 when licences will be available from post offices for £10. One big discount chain was quick off the mark yesterday in announcing that £750,000 of "twigs and rigs" aerials and transceivers, will be on sale from that date.

The £10 licence will cover up to three sets using 27 MHz or 34.5 MHz FM frequency (modulated) bands. Sets using AM (amplitude modulated) will continue to be illegal. But they can be modified to meet the new service specifications.

The Home Office decision to legalise CB on the frequencies announced was attacked by Mr James Bryant, president of the Citizens' Band Association, who said it would mean sets could only be made in Japan, would cost more.

The decision had been made in spite of clear evidence that the new system was more likely to interfere with aircraft landing systems than the present illegally used American system, he said.

But Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, said: "We welcome the beginning of the new legal CB system, which will give everybody a chance to use a personal radio communication system at work or at leisure."

"The frequencies we have allocated will be used by enthusiasts of CB enthusiasts; the system will be reasonably cheap and will cause much less interference to other users of the radio spectrum."

The Home Office says messages by CB will be unrestricted, apart from a ban on advertising or political goods or services, and on obscene or offensive language.

Argos, which sells from 112 showrooms, will be importing its sets from Japan, predicts an immediate best-seller with the Christmas market looming. Mobile transmitters will cost £79.99 or £89.99.

BL strike halts new Honda car

By Clifford Webb

Production of BL's new Honda-designed Triumph Acclaim, which goes on sale in six days time, has been halted by a strike of 630 assembly workers at the company's Cowley plant.

But BL insisted last night that the stoppage would not jeopardise the launch. A spokesman said: "We planned to have 6,500 Acclaims for the launch date and we already have 7,500."

The assembly workers, who also produce the Princess, walked out on Wednesday when the company refused to make lay-off payments to them for one day lost through a shortage of car bodies from an adjoining BL factory. Yesterday a mass meeting voted by a large majority to continue the strike.

The management said that as the lay-off was the result of industrial action at the body plant, it did not qualify for lay-off pay.

Mr Michael McGahay, vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said yesterday that Mrs Margaret Thatcher could forget about making miners accept a 4 per cent pay limit (the Press Association reports).

In the latest issue of the union newspaper, *Scottish Miner*, he wrote that recent Government moves pointed to a big winter offensive against the Labour movement.

Miners at Ackerly Hall colliery, north Yorkshire, which has lost £2.5m so far this year, arrive late at work and finish early, a joint union and management report says. Bad timekeepers can expect to be dismissed, says the report.

Of provincial members of the National Union of Journalists will lodge a pay claim next week with the Newspaper Society for a £15 a week increase.

continued from page 1

repeatedly asked: "So who did it? Who killed my husband?"

Mr John Blackburn, Conservative MP for Dudley West, Mr Prosser's MP, said yesterday that now that the case was no longer sub judice, he had also written to the Home Office seeking a inquiry by the Inspectorate of Prisons, together with an independent element, into Winslow Green prison.

He had asked that any findings should be made public to restore the faith of the public and to increase morale among prison officers.

The Home Office said yesterday after their discharge from the Birmingham court, the three officers were now on paid leave. Since being suspended from duty, when charged in June, they had been on full pay awaiting the outcome of the case.

The officers are Mr Melvyn Jackson, aged 32, Mr Eric Smith, aged 32, and Mr Howard Price, aged 24.

In February this year Mr John Millward, then the Birmingham stipendiary, heard prosecution evidence against Mr Jackson and decided not to send him for trial.

A Home Office spokesman said that while the officers were on leave, Mr Whitlaw would receive the report of the Birmingham proceedings which he had requested, and would decide what course of action was necessary. "It is unlikely the Home Secretary will receive the report for a day or so and he will obviously want time to read it. We would not think that there will be anything else to say until at least late next week."

Mr Peter Rushworth, deputy secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "Our official comment on the matter is that there is no comment."

Mr Prosser was on remand in the prison when he died in

August last year. He was a 6ft 3in tall, 14 stone, self-employed carpenter, working mainly in the building trade.

For 10 years he had had a record of hypo-mania, which often led him to become over-excited, a state that was compounded by his frequent drinking. He had been banned from several public houses in the area. He had received hospital treatment for his condition on three occasions.

His widow has since said that on one occasion he smashed up the contents of their home, but he had never offered physical violence to her or the children. On the day of his arrest, she had taken the children with her to stay at her father's home in Solihull.

Her husband had arrived there that night demanding to see her. She had called to him from a bedroom window asking him to be sensible, and to go home, because the children were asleep and she promised to see him the following day. He continued to shout excitedly, and rattled a back entry gate.

The gate handle, valued at £1.50, came away in his hand.

Mrs Prosser knew that a local police officer "could handle" her husband when he was in an excited condition, and she went to find him, but was unable to do so. On her return the police were present and her husband was under arrest for causing criminal damage to the gate handle. He appeared before local justices, and was remanded in custody for medical reports.

He went to Winslow Green prison and was first put into a cell with two other men. Mr Prosser was fond of singing Elvis Presley songs, and apparently did so continuously, and was "troublesome". He was transferred to a single strip cell which was furnished with a mattress, a plastic mug and plastic bucket, and he wore only a pair of "Stanley" shorts.

A psychiatrist had arranged



Barry Prosser: Transferred after trouble in cell.

for his transfer to an outside hospital, Ramsley Hall, near Birmingham, which offered medium security accommodation. He was due to go there on August 22, but three days before he was found dead in the strip cell.

Two months ago, Mr Whitlaw replied to a letter from Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik, Labour MP for Ormskirk, and chairman of the parliamentary all-party committee on penal affairs. The letter followed the request of Mr Prosser, when the coroner's jury found he had been unlawfully killed in the prison suffering a ruptured stomach and oesophagus.

Dr Richard Whittington, the Birmingham Coroner, had expressed concern about the training given to hospital officers in the prison service for dealing with mentally disordered people. He suggested there should be more interchange between prison officers and National Health Service staff.

Mr Whitlaw said that a new card-index system was to be

introduced in prison hospitals to record the use of drugs, and he was also issuing instructions about the completion of "use of force" forms by officers.

He said he felt there had been some confusion about whether hospital officers had to fill in the forms as well as disciplinary officers. He was instructing them that they had to do so.

He also said training in the prison service was being reviewed and accepted that more training and an interchange with health service personnel would be desirable, but the prison service was seriously handicapped by limits on resources.

The stipendiary magistrate's decision not to commit the three prison officers for trial demonstrated once again how the strict rules of evidence make it virtually impossible to obtain a conviction where the only witnesses to the alleged crime are the defendants themselves (Our Legal Correspondent writes).

Mr Prosser died after a vicious assault on him. The cause of death was a ruptured stomach which, according to two pathologists, could have been caused only by a heavy blow and could not have been self-inflicted.

Under the rules of evidence of English law, the prosecution has to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused committed the offence. Where there are several accused, and it is clear that one (or more) of them must be responsible, but there is no particular evidence pointing to one individual rather than another, then the prosecution has not proved its case.

Each accused is entitled to remain silent and not to go into witness box. Apart from the pathologists' findings that the injuries could not have been self-inflicted, the main prosecution witness was a fellow prisoner, who had not witnessed what went on in Prosser's cell, and whose evidence clearly did not impress the magistrates.

This is not the first time the difficulty has arisen. Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has told *The Times* that he thought it probable that Blair Peach, the New Zealand teacher, had died after being hit on the head by a police officer. "There was no evidence as to which one, literally no evidence," he went on. No charges could therefore be brought.

The segregation unit at Haverhill Prison in Scotland, in which prisoners are isolated in what have become known as "cages" is being challenged for the first time at the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg (Lucy Hodges writes).

A prisoner, whose name is being withheld, has lodged a complaint in Strasbourg in which he accuses the Government of subjecting him to inhuman and degrading treatment by confining him to the unit.

His lawyer, Mr David Godwin, who is general secretary of the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, said yesterday that the prisoner was in the cages for the second time in nine months. His only furniture was a concrete stool and bed and a light was on 24 hours a day, he said.

The cells in the segregation unit, which is the only one of its kind in Scotland, are known as cages because they are divided in two by a metal grille to protect prison officers entering the cell.

A Scottish Office spokesman refused to comment on the Strasbourg case but said there were three prisoners in the unit at present. They were segregated for behaving in a subversive fashion, he said, and were not kept locked in the cell on their own for more than two months. He said the cells did contain furniture.



General Gowon at home with his children Saraju, aged nine (left), Rahlia, aged two, and Abraham, aged 11.

General Yakubu Gowon, the former Nigerian head of state now living in exile in Britain, is free to return home, he learned yesterday (Peter Hopkirk writes).

"I would certainly like to go back. All I have ever wanted was to be vindicated," he said.

The squash-playing, ex-Sandhurst officer was ousted in July 1975 in a bloodless coup while at an African leaders' summit in Kampala. Later the Nigerian government sought, in vain, to have him extradited from Britain to face charges of being involved in a counter coup.

Yesterday President Shugu Shagari, in a radio broadcast, marking the twenty-first anniversary of Nigeria's independence, said General Gowon was no longer a wanted man and could return home if he wished.

General Gowon, better known to his friends as Jack, has spent most of his exile as a student of politics and international studies at Warwick University. He graduated, at the age of 43, in July 1978, and is now a postgraduate student, living with his wife, Victoria, and three children in London.

The former Nigerian head of state was anxious yesterday to make it clear that he had not been pardoned. "There was nothing to pardon," he said.

He interpreted the President's statement as meaning that his name had now been cleared, and that it was accepted that he had taken no part in any plot.

He thought it unlikely that he would return home until he had finished his studies. "I shall probably remain here another year. After all, what's the hurry? They have kept me away for six years."

General Gowon originally came to power as an unknown colonel following a bloody army coup in 1966. He led Nigeria through the bitter thirty-month Biafran war, before embarking on a successful programme of reconciliation and reconstruction among the defeated Ibos.

Shortly before his overthrow he was awarded an honorary doctorate of law at Cambridge University. In the Latin oration he was described as "a soldier of unusual modesty, a man of muscular Christianity".

Although the General was criticized for ineffectiveness during the period leading up to his overthrow, it is rare to find any Nigerian willing to speak ill of him personally.

At the height of the civil war reporters asked his enemy, General Odumegwu Ojukwu, whether he would shoot Gowon if he met him face to face on the battlefield. Ojukwu replied: "Shoot Jack. Good God no!"

HIGH-SPEED RELIEF FOR MISERY LINE

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

High-speed trains are to be introduced on Monday to British Rail's slowest and most neglected trunk route, the line winding down from Edinburgh and Newcastle through Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and Bristol to Plymouth, Penzance and South Wales.

Though the line serves a big area, including more than 50 towns and cities, it has suffered from trains that are older and less comfortable than the ones on the trunk routes radiating from London. Those trains, wandering on a path across at least three of the old independent railways, have made the line a prolonged and painful railway experience.

But on Monday the first pair of a fleet of Inter-City 125s will leave Bristol and Leeds respectively to inaugurate a new travel era on the route. Up to two hours will be cut from the journey next spring when the fleet is fully in.

The 530-mile trip from Edinburgh to Plymouth, for example, will be reduced from 10 hours and 40 minutes to 8 hours and 40 minutes.

Review of Irish constitution ordered

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A general review of the 1937 Irish Constitution is to be carried out by Mr Peter Sutherland, the Irish Attorney-General, following the commitment by Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister, to try to dismantle sectarian elements in the republic's institutions and laws.

The review will not be solely concerned with territorial matters but will also consider changing other important areas which may be out of keeping with modern times.

A government spokesman in Dublin would not confirm that Dr FitzGerald and his Cabinet colleagues had any specific changes in mind, but he said: "Two important areas where he is known to be interested in making changes are Dublin's claim to jurisdiction over Northern Ireland and the constitutional ban of divorce. So far the reaction of the Roman Catholic church has been muted and it is thought that the Prime Minister is confident that he could win a referendum on the issue of divorce and also on changes in laws concerning family planning."

Dr FitzGerald feels strongly that the present claim over jurisdiction alienates people in Ulster. His mother was an Ulster Presbyterian, and in an interview earlier this week, he said: "If I were a northern Protestant, I cannot see how I could be attracted to getting involved in a state which in itself is sectarian."

He added that he believed the Irish republic had slipped into a partitionist attitude and had set up institutions satisfactory to people in the south but which could not be used as a basis for discussions with Unionists in the north.

However, Dr FitzGerald has put his government's future at risk as he has a majority of only two in the Dail (Parliament) and must face a by-election in Cavan Monaghan as a result of the death of Kieran Doherty, the hunger striker.

Although he has been critical of certain sections of the constitution before, there is a danger that any referendum would develop into a political party campaign, especially if Fionna Fail, the Opposition party, take a strong line against any proposed changes.

In another indication of how the hunger strikes have driven many republicans away from

SDP faces dilemma over new by-election

By Geoffrey Browning

Liberal and Social Democrat Party leaders will be meeting as soon as possible to consider their strategy for the Crosby by-election following the death announced yesterday of Sir Graham Page, who had held the seat since 1953.

The crucial question was whether a Conservative majority of 19,272 at the general election was sufficient to deter one of the leaders of the SDP from contesting it.

In May 1979, the Liberals carried thirty with 2,502 votes. Labour collected 15,496 votes and Sir Graham Page was returned with 34,768 votes.

Mrs Shirley Williams, one of the four joint leaders of the SDP, has been anxious to return to Parliament since she lost her Labour seat.

She was undecided when the unpromising Warrington seat fell vacant and it was left to Mr Joy Jenkins, another of the SDP joint leaders to reduce a rock-solid Labour seat with a majority of 10,274 to a majority of 1,759 for Mr Douglas Hoyle, the left wing Labour victor.

Mrs Williams showed considerably more interest when Crosby North-West became free after the death of Mr Robert Taylor, but despite support from Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, the local Liberal Party decided to stick to their own candidate, Mr William Pitt for the by-election which will be held on October 22.

Her hopes of winning the seat for the SDP at Southwark, Bermondsey, were ruined when the incumbent Labour MP, Mr Robert Mullin, announced his intention to resign. Mrs Williams was confident that she could have won one of the safest Labour seats in the country.

The gentlemen's agreement whereby Liberal and SDP candidates alternate at by-elections has expired with the formation of the new alliance formally blessed at the Llandudno Liberal Assembly.

Earlier this week, national teams from the two parties sat around the table to work out an agreement on a fair and rational distribution of seats to fight at the next election.

Chinese bargains

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's King and Chase, of Purborough, West Sussex, appears to have provided knowledgeable dealers and collectors of Chinese porcelain with a dream of an opportunity in its auction of the contents of Amberley Castle yesterday. Most of the Oriental porcelain was catalogued as nineteenth century; a good proportion appears to have been earlier and decidedly more distinguished.

At Sotheby's the left hand does not always know what the right hand is doing. Mr Julian Thompson, a director, and world expert on Chinese porcelain, said yesterday: "I did not find time to go down to Amberley."

The downward auction of the castle's contents fetched £281,537.

Rugby tour games off

By David Spenser

Two British rugby clubs, Richmond and Torquay Athletic, have cancelled fixtures with Durban Collegians, a South African touring team, after the Government had voiced its concern about sporting contacts with South Africa.

At a meeting with the president and secretary of the Rugby Football Union in London yesterday, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister of Sport, explained that Britain, like other Commonwealth countries, had agreed to discourage sporting links with South Africa.

Accordingly, he urged the Rugby Football Union to withdraw its approval.

"The proposed visit was no different from a tour by a black team from South Africa last year," Mr Macfarlane said.

The RFU secretary, said.

Science report

Dolphins use magnets to find their way

By the Staff of "Nature"

Dolphins may use the Earth's magnetic field to find their way at sea, according to three Californian scientists who have discovered traces of magnetite, a compound of iron and oxygen commonly known as lodestone, in tissue taken from a dolphin's head.

Similar discoveries have been made in bacteria, honeybees and homing pigeons. Bacteria, for example, have been shown to contain small magnets which they use to align themselves with the Earth's magnetic field while swimming.

The United States discovery, however, is the first report that magnetite has been found in a mammal. It could provide important clues to explaining how other animals, including man, seem to possess a sense of direction.

The three scientists who made the discovery are John Zoeller, of Los Angeles State College, and John Robert Dunn and Michael Fuller, of the Department of Geological Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

They describe in the current issue of *Science* how they examined sections taken from the heads of several Pacific dolphins which had died after being stranded on the California coast.

Magnetized pieces of tissue were found in sections from four of the five dolphins studied. In each case the magnetization occurred in roughly the same area of the head, the membrane at the rear of the brain which separates it from the skull.

In one sample the researchers found an opaque, disc-like particle with a high iron content which chemical analysis revealed to be magnetite.

When that particle was placed under an electron microscope it was discovered to be covered in fibres, some about one micrometre in diameter and others considerably smaller. The scientists suggest that they could be nerve fibres arranged in such a way that they form a sensory net, with the magnetite acting as a magnetic receptor.

The magnetization found in the various tissue samples was soft, being neutralized by a relatively low electromagnetic field.

The three research workers therefore suggest that if magnetite is, indeed, part of the system which the dolphin uses to tell which direction it is moving in, it is unlikely to work in the same way as a permanently magnetized compass needle.

They suggest two alternative hypotheses. One is that since the magnetite would experience a torque when moving through an external magnetic field, that could be detected by the attached nerves and used as a way of identifying the field.

The other is that, being relatively flexible, the magnetized tissue could itself be deformed by the Earth's magnetic field, with changes in its shape picked up by the nerve fibres.

The Californian scientists point out that they do not as yet have any direct evidence that the magnetite they have discovered is in fact part of a system which the dolphins use for detecting the Earth's magnetic field.

Nevertheless, they conclude: "The association of apparent nerve fibres, with the magnetite suggests that the magnetite is not simply a meaningless by-product, but has a sensory function."

Source: *Science*, Vol 213, pp 832-834, August 21, 1981.

Land's End sale talks by council

From Our Correspondent

Penance

Cornwall County Council's planning committee yesterday discussed a request by chief planning officer Mr Harry Palmer to appoint a sub-committee to investigate the National Trust and County Council Commission over the future of Land's End, which is for sale.

Mr Calder put forward four possible courses of action. The council could continue to seek improvements at Land's End but take no further action.

It could buy Land's End, but it could probably find itself in direct competition with the National Trust.

Mr Calder told the committee an early decision was necessary.

The present owner, Mr Charles Naze-Hill, aged 34, is selling the land.

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Overseas selling prices
Australia \$4.50; Canada \$4.50; New Zealand \$4.50; Hong Kong \$4.50; Japan \$4.50; South Africa \$4.50; India \$4.50; Pakistan \$4.50; Sri Lanka \$4.50; Ceylon \$4.50; Malaya \$4.50; Singapore \$4.50; Brunei \$4.50; Indonesia \$4.50; Philippines \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; Burma \$4.50; Cambodia \$4.50; Laos \$4.50; Vietnam \$4.50; North Vietnam \$4.50; South Vietnam \$4.50; Laos \$4.50; Cambodia \$4.50; Burma \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; Malaysia \$4.50; Singapore \$4.50; Brunei \$4.50; Indonesia \$4.50; Philippines \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; Burma \$4.50; Cambodia \$4.50; Laos \$4.50; Vietnam \$4.50; North Vietnam \$4.50; South Vietnam \$4.50; Laos \$4.50; Cambodia \$4.50; Burma \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; Malaysia \$4.50; Singapore \$4.50; Brunei \$4.50; Indonesia \$4.50; Philippines \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; Burma \$4.50; Cambodia \$4.50; Laos \$4.50; Vietnam \$4.50; North Vietnam \$4.50; South Vietnam \$4.50; Laos \$4.50; Cambodia \$4.50; Burma \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; Malaysia \$4.50; Singapore \$4.50; 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Death verdict without jury in an atom-hit Britain

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Secret Government instructions, now declassified, about the use of capital punishment after the B-Bomb attack, say there would be no appeals against emergency court decisions.

But the senior commissioner, a high-ranking legal official at regional headquarters, would make arrangements to review decisions of the emergency courts in his area. The instructions are in a Home Office circular giving briefing information for wartime controllers.

"In capital cases, wherever practicable," the circular says, "there would be a jury of not more than five, empowered summarily, or a court consisting of not less than three commissioners."

In other cases, commissioners would sit with or without a jury as they saw fit. Cases which in peacetime would be triable summarily would not be expected to have a jury.

The circular says that, in conditions in which death, destruction and injury were commonplace, such penalties as probation, fines, or sentences of imprisonment would no longer be effective in dealing with anti-social offenders.

"Such penalties as communal labour, restricted rations and exposure to public disapproval might be appropriate for all but the gravest offences, but in the case of flagrantly anti-social behaviour, there might be a need for harsher penalties than would be generally acceptable in peacetime."

Although the circular does not say which crimes would attract the harshest penalties, it is clear that some would involve capital punishment.

A high official in local civil defence planning said yesterday that the use of capital punishment would depend on the situation in each area.

Looting, particularly of scarce food, would be one obvious choice for its use. And capital punishment would clearly be considered for those offences for which it was a penalty before its abolition.

"It would be very difficult to prove such cases in the circumstances likely to prevail, particularly if there were no witness. It would have to be very much summary justice, I would think," the official said.

The circular, which is still

current policy, says provision for appropriate penalties, not normally available to courts, would be made under emergency regulations. Regional commissioners would be empowered to impose such penalties as they thought fit in the light of conditions and circumstances at the time.

All persons holding judicial office and all active justices of the peace would be eligible to sit in emergency courts. It would therefore be possible to hold an emergency court anywhere in a region, where radioactivity did not prevent movement.

Lay commissioners would normally sit in pairs, or as a bench of three, but if necessary a commissioner sitting alone would still constitute a court.

The circular says that the main resources of the wartime judicial and penal system would be concentrated against the anti-social conduct of individuals, which seriously interfered with the survival of the life of the community.

But at a time when the paramount aim would be survival, certain conduct which would be regarded as examples of the occupation of the life of the community would be condoned, provided that the act did not involve violence and was not immediately prejudicial to the life of another individual.

The circular cites as examples the occupation of empty buildings, or the appropriation of unused chattels to one's own use.

In conditions of anarchy, the implementation of measures necessary for national survival would be impossible and the maintenance of public order would be one of the essential tasks of wartime regional government.

Responsibility for preventing a serious breakdown of order would fall mainly on the police, supported where necessary by the armed forces. The police actions would be backed by the regional system of courts with emergency powers.

The circular says that regional commissioners would have statutory powers to direct labour. But in the absence of effective sanctions, short of summary execution, for dealing with those who might not comply with directions, success in allocation of labour throughout the survival period would in practice depend on the community's acceptance of the need and their voluntary cooperation.

By David Cross

Arms talks preconditions ruled out

The United States was preparing for a new round of nuclear arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union, laying down any political preconditions but fully mindful of the limitations of earlier similar pacts, Professor Eugene Rostow, the director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said yesterday.

There was a passionate conviction in many parts of the West that arms control policy was some kind of magic formula which would lead the world out of the shadows and into a permanent state of peace. But such a view was a very dangerous illusion, he told a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, London.

Professor Rostow, who was appointed agency director by

President Ronald Reagan in the spring, is visiting Europe to consult America's allies about the twentieth-century arms control agreements and to explain the latest American thinking.

Until his appointment, Professor Rostow was one of the leaders of the opposition to the strategic arms limitation agreement, Salt 2, negotiated by President Carter.

In his speech, Professor Rostow argued that the history of twentieth-century arms control agreements was not a happy one. He listed the Treaty of Versailles, the 1922 Washington agreement on naval disarmament, as well as two Salt treaties as examples of international pacts which had failed transparently to bring about world peace.

Moreover, the Soviet Union had taken advantage of America's belief in disarmament to move towards equality, if not superiority, in its nuclear arsenal.

Arms control policy, while it might be a useful catalyst for peace, was no substitute for a proper foreign and security policy. Professor Rostow insisted. It was a tool of foreign policy, not a policy itself he explained.

Although Washington was still working out details of its approach to the forthcoming talks, it had been agreed that there would be no preconditions on Moscow such as a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Professor Rostow said. Clearly, however, any unacceptable Soviet move, such as an invasion of Poland, would almost certainly lead to a suspension of the talks.

Wrapped loaves will have to list ingredients

By Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government intends to force bread companies to list the ingredients on the wraps of their loaves, Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, indicated yesterday.

She made it clear that the Government intended to bring into law a four-year-old recommendation from a quango which advises ministers about food labelling. The quango, the Food Standards Committee, said then that it could see no case for continuing the exemption of wrapped bread from laws which demand a declaration of ingredients on food labels.

"I am known to be extremely interested in the quality of bread," Mrs Fenner said. "I am very interested in the Campaign for Real Bread. There is a need for consumers to know exactly what they are eating. Obviously one would take considerable advice from such a good committee as the Food Standards Committee."

Mrs Fenner was speaking after an absence of more than seven years from the ministry, where she held the same post in the government of Mr Edward Heath. She was promoted to the ministry in 1972 as the "housewives' champion" in the period when wages were pegged and food prices were rising faster than the cost of living.

She lost her seat at Rochester and Chatham when the Heath government fell in 1974 and regained it with a reduced majority when the Government of Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979. Mrs Fenner was in the United States when the recent reshuffle of ministers was announced and has only just returned to Britain.

She said that the ministry yesterday had agreed to a new proposal to leave the mantle of consumer protection with Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, at the Department of Trade. "I think that I was the first woman to serve in this ministry," Mrs Fenner said. "Now I am the second."

Her responsibilities will include food law, animal welfare and environmental pollution. "You will see that I have some of the same responsibilities as before. The food price situation is now more stable and below the general level of inflation. I am not now principally concerned with food prices."

The British consumer is having to pay an extra 7p a lb for bread because of the cost of higher duties imposed by the Common Market, it was claimed yesterday.

Britain is by far the largest consumer of corned beef in the EEC and the last year imported more than 99 per cent of its requirement from outside the community.

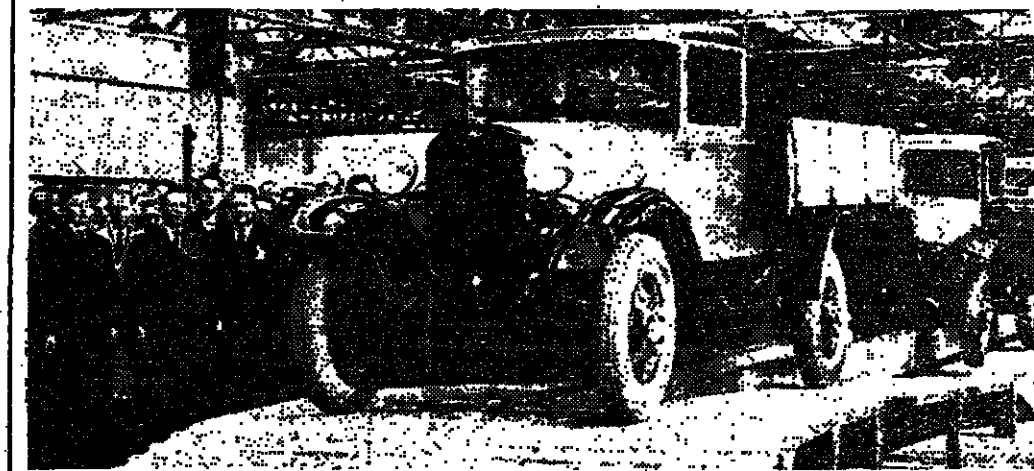
When Britain joined the EEC, the duty on EEC-produced corned beef mostly French was reduced to 15 per cent to zero, while duty on imports from other countries was raised from 15 per cent to 26 per cent.

Mr Peter Gibbon, chairman of the British Association of Food Importers and Distributors, said in London yesterday: "This increase in duty can be said to have cost consumers an additional 56½ million in 1980."



History repeated: Fifty years of successful production at Ford's Dagenham works presented Sir Rowland Smith, aged 93 (above), with the chance to reenact history he made 50 years ago, when he drove the first vehicle — a

Model AA Truck — off the production line. Sir Rowland, a former chairman of the company, is seen below, in a 1931 picture which shows him at the wheel of the first Dagenham-built vehicle.



Solicitor withdraws from petrol bomb case

From Our Correspondent, Bradford

A solicitor yesterday withdrew from the case in which 12 men are accused after the failure of 38 petrol bombs at Bradford, saying that his client wanted to use the case as a political platform. "It has become increasingly apparent to me that Hussain and some of the others wish to defend the case not on a legal basis but on a political basis," he said. He did not want to be involved in the case if it

was to be used as a political platform when it was a serious criminal matter. Mr Irvine said he was not prepared to put at risk his professional independence and said that politics were not relevant in the context of legal issues involved in the case.

Hussain and two others were remanded on bail until October 22. The remaining nine were remanded in custody.

Each was charged with conspiring to cause damage and grievous bodily harm after the discovery of the petrol bombs in the city in July. They also faced a new charge which alleged that they unlawfully and maliciously made an explosive substance with intent to endanger life or damage property.

Yard man says police must adapt

By Lucy Hodges

The police must change and become more responsive to people's needs, a gathering of youth club leaders was told yesterday by Inspector Michael O'Byrne, of Scotland Yard's community relations branch.

He said that police should and would return to patrolling the streets, a function which had been neglected during the 1970s when there was a serious staffing problem.

"With the increased manpower and growing awareness of the metropolitan police, will need change," he said. "We will change our role, which existed up until the last 10 to 15 years." This did not mean community policing, which he thought was a misnomer.

Speaking to the Greater London Standing Conference of Voluntary Youth Organizations, Mr O'Byrne said the police force's difficulties had been caused by changes in society. Most of London's officers were in their early 20s and did not have a stake in the areas in which they worked.

Home-beat policemen were used too rarely and panda cars too much. This had happened because of staff shortages but also because of the demands made on police officers in the 1970s to maintain public order. "It is not surprising that we are meeting the difficulties we are at present."

IN BRIEF

Heavy reading on doorstep

Mr Sydney Thurlie, aged 69, a retired caretaker, found more than his fair share of reading material when he returned home from shopping. On his doorstep were 17,999 copies of Tyne and Wear County Council's annual report.

The distributors had intended delivering the copies to an agent who lives in the same street in South Shields as Mr Thurlie who still awaiting his own copy of the report.

Former naval rating on secrets charge

A former naval rating accused under the Official Secrets Act was committed for trial on bail to the Central Criminal Court by Croydon magistrates yesterday. Martin Gunnar Hartland, aged 20, a barman at St Peter's Road, South Croydon, is alleged to have retained a note from a notebook used in HMS Dryad, a shore establishment in Southwick, Hampshire.

Salmonella inquiry

Officials are investigating an outbreak of salmonella poisoning at Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow. A man aged 80 has died, but a hospital spokesman said yesterday his death was not caused by the salmonella. The 13 others affected were said to be satisfactory.

Nose sewn back

Surgeons have sewn back the nose of Nicholas Chawms, aged 2, of Croydon, Norfolk, which was severed when he fell through the glass front door of his home. His condition in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital yesterday was reported to be comfortable.

Lamp top injures boy

Mark Ryder, aged 14, of Park Lane, Two Dales, near Matlock, Derbyshire, had his skull fractured by a top section of a cast-iron street lamp dislodged when a youth was climbing it at Darley Dales. He was said to be improving slowly in hospital yesterday.

'Play School' baby

Floella Benjamin, presenter of BBC television's Play School, has given birth to a 7lb boy. The baby, who was born at the West Lndon Hospital, Hammersmith, on Tuesday, will be called Aston, her husband, Mr Keith Taylor, a fashion shop owner, said yesterday.

Murder charge

A man was charged at Bodmin yesterday with the murder of Caroline Cooper, aged 17, whose body was found in a church doorway. Nigel D Williams, aged 20, of Whitestone Crescent, Bodmin, was remanded in custody until October 9.

26 calves for one cow

Embryo transplant, a new breeding technique, has enabled a nine-year-old cow on a farm near St Ives to produce 19 calves, a record more on the way. The embryos were removed from the cow and transferred to other mothers.

Fishermen rescued

Four fishermen were rescued off the north Scottish coast, after their vessel, the Inverness-registered Luran, caught fire and sank four miles from Lossiemouth on Wednesday night.

Adder breeder wins

Waveney District Council, on the Norfolk-Suffolk border, has voted 34 to four to allow Mr Mark Jones of Brampton, Suffolk, to breed adders in his garden despite a petition against the idea.

Cheaper Orkney fuel

Electricity users in Orkney will have cheaper fuel bills in two years. An £8m cable will link the islands with the Scottish mainland saving up to £2m a year.

Decision sought on BBC external services cuts

By Kenneth Gosling

Peers and MPs will ask the Government in the new parliamentary session to decide whether there will be cuts in seven of the BBC's external language services.

A Cabinet committee discussed last week the cuts which were announced last June but the official line afterwards was that there had been no change of approach and that too little emphasis had been given to the Government's intention to make a large increase in the capital programme to increase audibility to the remaining services.

A Foreign Office inquiry following the report of the foreign affairs committee during the last session is still being analyzed.

Although the Government has announced the cuts, it does not mean that a final decision has been made as Mr Peter Walker, Minister for Agriculture made clear at a press conference last week before leaving Brazil.

The service to Brazil is one of those that would go if the cuts take effect and Mr Walker denied that the Government decided finally on the closures. It might be having second thoughts, he said.

Lord Byers, leader of the Liberal peers, who opened the debate in July that led to the

Memoirs of a spy

Russia 'duped' over Concorde

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Russian supersonic Tupolev-144 airliner crashed at the 1973 Paris Air Show might have been a victim of the British Secret Service, according to a series of disclosures by Mr Greville Wynne, the former spy.

He says on the BBC television programme Newsnight tonight that misinformation about supersonic aircraft was fed to the Russians about the Anglo-French Concorde after a Soviet "mole" had been discovered within the British Aircraft Corporation in the late 1960s. Mr Wynne, who stole the headlines in 1962 when he was arrested during a business trip to Hungary and was later jailed for eight years after appearing alongside the Russian double-agent Oleg Penkovsky at a Moscow show trial.

He was released two years later in a dramatic exchange at the Berlin Wall with Gordon Lonsdale, the Russian master spy.

Ironically, another of his revelations is that the West was tipped off about plans to build the wall about 18 months before building began, and that the West could have deterred the Russians from going ahead with the wall by showing enough opposition.

Mr Wynne, aged 62, who is making his living by exporting roses from Majorca, is about to cause a stir in Whitehall with his autobiography, *The Man from Odessa*, to be published next month.

In it he makes clear that far from being the innocent dupe of British intelligence, which was the story he gave at his show trial, he was a professional agent with considerable experience in both the Security Service (M15) and the Secret Intelligence Service (M16).



Mr Greville Wynne: Now a rose importer.

He discloses in tonight's interview with Robert Harris, the television reporter, that he was first recruited by M15 in 1939 and spent the war doing "rather distasteful" work, keeping a watch on fellow army officers whose loyalty was in doubt.

He became a civilian businessman in 1945, but was contacted 10 years later by a former M15 colleague, identified only as "James", who was by then working for the sister organization, M16.

During a lunch at the Ivy restaurant in London "James", who is now retired and living in Sussex, dropped a hint to Mr Wynne that the Secret Service would like him to develop business contacts behind the Iron Curtain.

In 1959 he carried out his first important assignment when he was sent to Odessa to help a Russian intelligence officer, named as Major Sergei Kuznetsov, defect to the West.

Mr Wynne's other role was to create a diversion to mask Kuznetsov's escape by ship, by falling overboard from a cruise liner anchored nearby but he broke his leg in two places and arrived back in

WEDGWOOD MANSION SOLD FOR £1

By John Young, Planning Reporter

It was agreed yesterday to sell Barlston Hall, Staffordshire, an eighteenth-century listed mansion, for the nominal sum of £1.

The building, which has been empty for nearly 30 years and is in a derelict state, is owned by Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, the pottery company. Last week an inquiry began into the company's appeal against the refusal of consent to demolish it.

The buyer is a new company set up by Save Britain's Heritage, one of several conservation groups which have publicized the building's plight and vigorously opposed its demolition.

Although in recent years the group has established itself as a highly effective campaigning organization, this is the first time it has ventured into ownership. The sale is conditional upon the hall being restored and converted into residential flats within the next five years.

Save Britain's Heritage said yesterday that it hoped to reach agreement with the National Coal Board on compensation for damage caused by mining subsidence, and to be able to prevent further subsidence.

The group also paid tribute to the "unprecedented" action of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, last June in using his reserve powers to order immediate repairs.

'Caring' parents accused of double standards

By Lucy Hodges

Children are discriminated against as much as women or black people and the effects are just as harmful, Dr Mia Keimling of the National Children's Bureau, said yesterday (Thursday) on her final address as director of the National Children's Bureau.

Examples of discrimination could be seen every day in streets, supermarkets, classrooms and hospitals, she told the bureau's annual conference in London.

"The tone of voice used with children, the criticisms made both in public and in private about a child's looks, abilities and a society which consumed vast quantities of drugs and medicine to escape pain and yet still clung to the belief that 'deliberately inflicted pain on the young is educative and morally reforming'."

Dr Pringle asked why so many adults deprive children of the courtesy and consideration which they automatically extended to adults. That contrasted with the "sentimental sympathy" excited by the portrayal of children in the abstract. She cited as an example, starving children abroad.

The reality was the parental murderer who got a lighter sentence than the non-parental murderer of a child; or the hypocrisy of a society which consumed vast quantities of drugs and medicine to escape pain and yet still clung to the belief that "deliberately inflicted pain on the young is educative and morally reforming."

Wordsworth museum is opened in converted barn

From Our Correspondent, Grasmere

The Grasmere and Wordsworth Museum at Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria, was opened yesterday by Lord Charteris, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The museum has been created at a cost of £321,000 in a converted barn behind the cottage where the poet Wordsworth lived during his Golden Decade from 1799 to 1808.

Lord Charteris said: "Wordsworth's writing, and Dove Cottage are a rich and moving part of Britain's heritage, and this was in the minds of the trustees of the Heritage Fund when they made a sizable contribution, which is not to help build the museum but to preserve documents."

The fund's grant is for £20,000. Other major grants

have come from the English Tourist Board (£500,000), the Countryside Commission (£40,000), the North West Museum Advisory Service (£20,000) and private donors. A library is planned at Dove Cottage at a cost of £135,000 and an appeal for that was launched yesterday by the chairman of the Dove Cottage trustees, Mr Jonathan Wordsworth, the poet's great great grandnephew. In all £250,000 is needed to complete the programme of renovation, conversion and development.

Mr Wordsworth said: "With the museum we have been able to increase our number of visitors here when they have fallen off elsewhere. Visitors can now see things which were previously inaccessible, including manuscripts and love letters."

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Policy control

Cheering and jeering as the manifesto vote goes both ways

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Gordon Wellman, Derek Barnett, Richard Evans.

Having delighted some delegates by adopting the principle that the Labour Party's national executive should in future give final approval to the party's general election manifesto, the conference to the equal delight of others, then refused to will the means to do that.

Delegates rejected a constituency party resolution containing the necessary changes to the constitution of the party to enable the national executive to have the final say in what pledges and policies Labour should have in its manifesto.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, who was on the platform, had earlier vigorously joined the applause that greeted the result of the card vote accepting that the manifesto should be drawn up by the Parliamentary Labour Party and the Labour Party National Executive Committee, with final approval to be by the NEC.

That the necessary constitutional amendment on the subject should be put on the agenda, thereby permitting a vote. That was done, but after the debate on it conference voted the other way.

Conference having rejected his advice, Mr Benn said that the party should be speaking on the subject of the manifesto, not that whatever happened, nothing would deter him from using the decision made by conference to draw to the very best of the manifesto that they could to defeat the Tory enemy at the next election.

Mr Daniel Morgan (Sunderland, South), moving the resolution, said unemployment in Sunderland was running at 23 per cent with the prospect of the loss of further jobs. The bosses of major industries regarded working people as expendable as last year's car.

The people in his area asked when it was going to end. It would end when a Labour Government was elected to end it. But this time it had to be a Labour Government with a manifesto drafted by the NEC and based on the policies that had been adopted this week. "And this time it has got to mean what it says," he added.

While he would not argue with the need for a partnership between the parliamentary party and the conference, they should nevertheless establish that it was the conference which decided policy. The NEC must consult the parliamentary party, but the NEC must have the final say.

The party as a whole was asked to trust the parliamentary party, but how many times had it done so in the past? In the past we have trusted people like Shirley Williams, George Brown, Reg Prentice. Where are they now? They are in the enemy camp.

"We will trust the parliamentary party when they respect and carry out the decisions of this conference."

The PLP argued that it was answerable to the people and not the rank and file of the movement. His experience was that they were the same thing. "We want a manifesto based on socialist principles which will be carried out despite the efforts of the City of London or the IMF or anyone else, including the media, because if we go back on our promises we are liable to throw away the best chance we have had of getting a Labour Government elected since 1945."

Mr Peter Williams (Woolwich, East) said the only way to ensure that the manifesto reflected the views of the whole party as expressed by conference and not the views of a small elite was for the NEC to have the final say. The NEC was elected every year and represented the views of the party, with the trade unions having full representation.

Unless the manifesto reflected the party programme based on conference resolutions the next time we go to the polls we would not feel committed to carry out the programme. This might be the last chance to carry out this important reform in the party's constitution.

Mr Charles Kelly (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians), who was, in his words, "deselected" from the NEC earlier this week, supported the resolution, saying that despite an overwhelming call by an earlier conference for the abolition of the House of Lords, Mr James Callaghan, when Prime Minister, had failed to do it.

After months of detailed deliberations in the NEC and PLP their proposals for abolition were replaced by an entirely new document from the private office of the party leader.

The contents of the manifesto should not depend on the whim of any future party leader. No

leader, even if he had all the qualities of Keir Hardy, Clement Attlee, Hugh Gaitskell and Nye Bevan combined, should have the right to veto what was in the manifesto.

Mr Giles Radice, MP for Chester-le-Street, said it was not true, as Mr Benn suggested last week, that certain policies were ruled out of the manifesto. Neither was it true that parliamentary leaders and MPs were by definition traitors who got into Parliament only to betray those they represented. They were doing their best for those who elected them.

"It is about time we called a halt to the campaign against MPs and the leaders of our parliamentary party," he said. "We sink or swim together. For the sake of the party and this country let us do a bit more swimming and a little less sinking." (Applause.)

Mr Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Union of Telecommunication Workers, asked conference to oppose the resolution on the party manifesto because if they were going to succeed in building the party to greater strength and getting their message over to the electorate they must be seen to be working together in unity and partnership.

"We must end the factions that are preventing us putting our policies over and winning the support of the people."

Mr Foot, he said, was the best potential Prime Minister who could lead the country, and Labour's policies were right.

"What is wrong is the disunity within our own ranks and the fact that we present an image to the people of falling out with each other. We must make it clear that the manifesto presented at the next general election and put before the people is the result of a working together between the NEC and the parliamentary party as a partnership."

Mr Geoffrey Edge, former MP for Aldridge, Brownhills, said the Parliamentary Labour Party had never been consulted on any election manifesto. If carried, the resolution would give both MPs and the grass roots far greater involvement in writing the manifesto than ever before.

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the party, said he did not complain about the tone and manner in which the matter had

been raised. He understood that the resolution represented the very strong feelings in many sections of the party. It was in his opinion a sensible sense that he replied.

He appealed to the conference to reject the motion. It was dealing with an important constitutional question for the party.

It proposed to alter the normal procedures of the party to deal with the matter. The executive was instructed to bring forward another resolution before the end of the conference, to be put to the conference which would change the constitution on this important matter. That was an abnormal manner of doing it, to say the least.

An important rule was affected that protected minorities. It would be wrong to set a precedent by dealing with important matters in such a way. It also touched on the question of partnership between the parliamentary party and the conference.

"This is an extremely important question and the way we settle it could settle whether we win or lose the next election. We have every chance of winning. I am sure we can go from this conference more determined than we have ever been in our lives to get a socialist victory when we get the chance."

"If we reopen the breaches between the parliamentary party and the conference, when we return to the House of Commons we shall have to deal with these problems."

"We have to go back there and translate into effective action the views, policies and outlook that have been expressed at this conference. I am going to do everything I

can to ensure that that happens. It can only be done by partnership and I believe that is the appropriate word to describe the relationship. Tony has used the word. Denis has used it, and I use it. So we are making some progress."

There was an interruption and Mr Foot commented: "I thought that it might be almost unanimous. I believe in partnership and the reason I dislike this motion is because I believe it could injure the partnership."

What the motion said was that in the final resort the power the PLP had under the present party constitution should be removed. Mr Foot said he could go over the history before the last election, as he was in the thick of it. It was not the case that there was no consultation with the parliamentary party. They had two meetings to which he reported back to the Shadow Cabinet and to the meetings which drew up the manifesto.

He could prove what he said because he got the items into the manifesto, a manifesto drawn up after longer consultations than ever before, not only with the PLP but also with representative bodies on the NEC.

He knew what the arguments were but there was no such thing as a personal veto.

Amid interruptions and shouts of dissent, Mr Foot said: "No leader of the party has a personal veto. [Protests.] No, he has not. He goes to all the meetings and gets what he thinks and that meeting has to make up its mind whether or not it is going to accept it."

"At that moment what you are doing very often is to seek how best to devise the way in which you are going to win that general election. No escape from that responsibility."

The national executive of the party ought to be giving all its time and energy to working out how best it was going to defeat the enemy at the election.

"The enemy is not in this hall. The enemy is outside. Do you know what the enemy has done today? They have pushed up bank rate 2 per cent and plunged Britain further into deflation."

"Another section of the enemy is out there in Melbourne and while we are seeking to unite the country, she is seeking to break up the Commonwealth. We have the greatest task imaginable ahead of us."

"I believe we can go away from this conference in partnership to achieve the great things we have been discussing."

He asked the conference to reject the proposition although he respected the passion and interest of those who had put their case.

There was loud applause, and many delegates stood and cheered, when it was announced that in the card votes the resolution had been carried by 3,609,000 to 3,400,000—a majority of 209,000.

That defeat for Mr Foot meant that the conference had to consider an amendment to bring the proposals in the resolution into effect. The amendment provided:

The National Executive Committee, the leaders and deputy leader of the party and the Parliamentary Labour Party through the parliamentary committee of the PLP shall draw up the manifesto based on items from the party programme and shall be subject to final approval by the NEC. A joint meeting of the NEC and the parliamentary committee of the PLP shall define the attitude of the party to the principal issues raised by the election which are not covered by the manifesto.

Mr Vince McGee (Wallasey CLP), seconding, said many at branch level believed that amendment was possibly the most important issue of the week. The party must go into battle at the next election armed in the knowledge that no possible avenue of policy had been overlooked.

Mr Foot said the NEC opposed the amendment. But he was cheered when he said he must accept the conference decision on the earlier resolution. There would have to be further talks with the parliamentary party on the decision.

He appealed to delegates who had voted for that result to vote against the amendment. Constitutional changes were important matters. Amid interruptions he insisted to delegates that there had to be a vote, according to the previous composite motion. Afterwards there would have to be discussions when the wording would have to be read carefully.

He felt that constitutional alterations would have been better had they been discussed first and brought back to conference next year. Whichever way the vote went this time, however, nothing would deter him from going away determined to use the decisions at conference to draw up the very best kind of manifesto to defeat the Tory enemy at the next election.

The amendment was rejected by 3,791,000 votes to 3,254,000—a majority of 537,000.



Rosina McCrae... challenge for MPs

Power and the PLP

Heffer's tough talk defeats move to incorporate MPs

The whole issue of the relationship between the Parliamentary Labour Party and its National Executive Committee was referred back to the NEC by conference after a fighting plea to delegates by Mr Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool, Walton, and chairman of the party organisation committee.

Motions criticising the PLP and outlining suggestions for its reform have all been referred to the new national executive. The principle motion before conference had sought to instruct the NEC to integrate the "virtually autonomous" PLP into the Labour Party by bringing before next year's conference all the necessary constitutional amendments fully to incorporate the PLP's standing orders into the party constitution.

The motion sought to have the standing orders reviewed in order to make the weekly PLP meetings "a vital forum to ensure the implementation of the principles laid down by the Labour Party conference."

Mr Heffer, pointing out that on many occasions at Westminster he had opposed the parliamentary leadership, said they must get the relationship between the PLP and NEC right.

"We want a partnership," he declared, "so that we can coordinate policy to win the next election. If we are not careful we will not win the next election unless we get that partnership."

Ms Rosina McCrae (Kilmarnock CLP), moving the main motion, said that contrary to popular belief, MPs were virtually powerless. Power was exercised by a small leading group. The Shadow Cabinet, and not the whole PLP in decision-making. The power of the party was being concentrated in a modern democracy.

The sad fact was that after 80 years the PLP was not organised to the level of the Conservative Party. The motion proposed for the first time to give MPs responsibility. The challenge was enormous and exciting and the benefits would apply throughout. In exchange for MPs taking on policy implementation the

CLPs and trade unions would have to accept that MPs were best placed to decide the way of implementation.

The motion would reunite MPs inside the Parliament with the rest of the party and give them for the first time a real say in getting a party programme carried out.

Ms Helen Osborn (Westbury CLP) said the present PLP was a virtually autonomous body separated from the rest of the party. "Quite simply we want them back," she said.

"I would like to know why 80 years after we got our first representatives in Parliament we are still two entities. Much of the distrust that is evident between MPs and the rest of the movement stems from what is seen as the separation of the PLP from the party."

Mr Dave Sutton (Bristol, South-East CLP) moved an amendment which said MPs, as a condition of nomination as parliamentary candidates, should sign an official declaration that they abide by and seek to implement party policies as set out in the manifesto.

He said it was a modest resolution which would clarify the relationship between the party and elected representatives. They wanted to see real democracy within the PLP.

Mr Alex Kilson, party chairman, said that a vote on the amendment would be taken early today.

Mr Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee, West, said that if Labour MPs, when in power, found they could not carry out manifesto or conference policies they had to be able to go back and explain the reason to CLPs. He supported the Kilmarnock motion.

Mr George Cunningham, MP for Islington South and Finsbury, said that what was being suggested was that when the party conference had decided policy and when it had been put in the manifesto it had to be adopted and pursued without qualification. But what happened when there was a conflict between the two?

For example, in 1974 it had been a manifesto commitment, without qualification, to have an assembly in Wales. It was conference policy, it was NEC policy. But those MPs who opposed it insisted there should be a referendum and that had shown less than 12 per cent of the people were in favour.

What is democratic in the situation? Is it to follow the

conference policy despite the will of the people? Or is it to follow the will of the people?

Mr Jack Turner (AUEW) supporting the Kilmarnock resolution, said his union disagreed with any remarks about MPs being a lobby funder. Had there been integration of the PLP before, there would have been consultation, dialogue and accountability, and past mistakes could have been avoided.

Mr Heffer, speaking for the NEC, asked that the resolution be remitted so there could be further discussion to get the relationship right. The NEC agreed with much of the Bristol resolution but wanted that, too, to be remitted for further talks.

Loudly cheered by delegates during his speech, Mr Heffer began by declaring how hard MPs worked. He himself had worked in shipyards and on building sites. "But I never worked so bloody hard as I did when I became an MP," he asserted.

He did not know too many Labour MPs who were not full timers. He felt the right approach to them was "Let's talk to them."

He wanted defence policy carried out. He wanted the House of Lords abolished and an alternative socialist programme carried through. He wanted to see the PLP as the instrument carrying that through. But every individual could not be tied down to every conference resolution.

He used to attend conference when all resolutions were right-wing. Would anyone have expected comrades like Mr Foot and others to go back and be puppets to a decision they did not agree with?

Delegates laughed when Mr Heffer commented: "Nobody can say that my record in the Commons has not been one of consistent opposition to my own party leadership."

They did not want the PLP to be puppets but neither did they want conference resolutions ignored. That was why the discussions between the NEC and PLP were needed, to try to get the relationship right.

Mr Heffer was loudly cheered yet again when he asserted: "I may not be the taste of everyone but I will be a rebel until my dying day. I will fight for our policies when I think they are socialist ones and I will oppose them when they are not."

Health service

Private practice 'a cancer'

Against the advice of the NEC the conference carried a resolution demanding the expansion of the National Health Service, the abolition of health service charges and of all private medicine, and public ownership of the pharmaceutical and medical supply industries.

The conference also voted for a massive and immediate campaign against private medicine and the development of a fully comprehensive health service, free at the time of need and financed from government funds.

Moving the first resolution, Mr John Ashton, an NHS consultant and a member of Southampton, Test, CLP, said that despite good value for money the NHS was in a state of crisis. Most people in the NHS, the main problems had not been tackled.

"We are rapidly going back to the poor law and the workhouse," Mr Ashton declared, "and to the days of the deserving and undeserving poor. There is a real prospect that the construction industry will be bailed out only by the creation of a new generation of workhouses and poor law hospitals."

Private practice was a cancer in the NHS, he said, to loud cheers. In the past two years the carpetbagger had moved in from America and were taking away staff trained at public expense. New NHS con-

trasts gave every consultant the right to practise privately. "Could Arthur Scargill's men dig a bit to do some private work at lunch time?" he asked, amid laughter.

Mr Albert Spanswick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, moving the second resolution, deplored what he called moves

to discriminate against ethnic minorities seeking NHS treatment. It was wrong to impose the retirement aged to 60 for all and to ensure a realistic pension level.

Mr Bernard Dix, speaking for the NEC, said the Government's strategy was that by the next general election 25 per cent of the health care would be delivered by private practice. It wanted to interlock the NHS and private practice in such a way that it would be difficult to unscramble it. Ultimately the Government wanted the whole of the NHS to be insurance-based, rather than tax-based.

"If Dr Gerard Vaughan did to patients as a doctor what he is doing to them as a minister he would be struck off the bloody register," Mr Dix said.

The conference also carried a resolution, on the advice of the NEC, committing the next Labour government to reduce the retirement aged to 60 for all and to ensure a realistic pension level.

But the conference remitted to the national executive for further consideration a resolution calling for the immediate repeal of Conservative social security legislation and urging the NEC to set up a working party to draw up a programme aimed at the elimination of poverty by the establishment of an adequate income maintenance system.

Mr Stevie Stevenson (EFTU) said the bad old days of the voluntary hospital, which suggested along with insuffi-

Europe

Delegates united against EEC

Delegates were urged to "unite against the Common Market" during a debate on the implications of withdrawing from the EEC and on a referendum on Britain's continued membership.

Also before the conference was the NEC policy statement *Withdrawal from the EEC*.

Mr Tony McWhirter, of Eddisbury, moved a resolution calling for "a study of the consequences of withdrawal and for the publication of details of the legislative programme to effect that."

The EEC, he said, was committed to the philosophy of the free market and Labour should be resisting that. The free market was not much good for the poor.

Mr Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Federation, moved a resolution urging that the party's next general election manifesto should include a pledge to bring back the EEC, and to ensure that the party's continued membership of the EEC.

There was no considered alternative to the policy of withdrawal, he said. The NEC statement was a mechanism for bringing Britain out of the high-minded, but bankrupt, of what to do after withdrawal. He asked if there had been a serious investigation of what Britain would do about its trade with the EEC.

Mr John Skilkin, MP for Dorset and former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said it was six years since the last referendum on this issue and during that time he had never wavered in his opposition to the Common Market.

"There is only one referendum we ought to be having on the Common Market and that is the one we will have at the general election. [Applause.] Let there be no doubt where the great Labour movement stands on this issue."

The three major measures in Labour's alternative economic strategy, massively reaffirmed at the conference earlier in week, were import controls, public aid to industry and exchange controls to prevent capital leaving the country.

All were restricted under the Treaty of Rome.

On top of that there was the common agricultural policy which could not be reformed in Brussels. "Let us unite against the market today," he urged the delegates, amid loud applause.

Mr Alan Sappington, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, said the economic argument for staying in the Community had been just over and over again by marketeers and economists. If society dominated by a capitalist press and other media did not fulfil any democratic role.

Lord Shovel said he was some of the speeches made during the debate had been made 12 years ago, when an irremovable barrier had been made. It would have saved the country a deal of trouble.

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Defector brings his problems with him

By Roger Berthoud

The announcement last night of the defection to the Social Democrats of Dr Dickson Mabon, the Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow, on Clydeside, is likely to lead to serious difficulties between the SDP and the Liberals.

The seat is one of the few in the country where they came second in the 1974 election, and a Conservative opponent, and they do not want to make way for Dr Mabon as the alliance candidate.

Liberal traditions in the area go back to Sir Godfrey Collins's 26 years as Greenock's Liberal MP from 1910 to 1936. The Liberals ran the Inverclyde District Council, which has its seat in Greenock, from 1977 to 1980, and now have nine councillors, against 12 socialists.

There had been speculation in Greenock for some months about Dr Mabon's defection. "It will be a Liberal candidate who is fighting the seat at the next election," Mr Max Hill, the local Liberal chairman, said meagrely.

A majority of the Inverclyde Liberal Association members would never accept Dickson Mabon as an SDP candidate. Having fought him for 25 years, they are deeply suspicious of him as a career politician.

A Liberal candidate was selected on September 9: Mr Alan Blair, aged 42, a Greenock solicitor and leader of the Liberal Party on the Inverclyde council.

"I think I would be prepared to submit to selection by the SDP and Liberals together," he said, "and they would have to make up their minds. It would probably have to go to arbitration. I would abide by the decision." His party, however, might insist on a tougher approach.

The local Liberals believed that even if Dr Mabon had stayed with Labour, they had a good chance, with SDP support, of winning the seat.

The Parliamentary Boundaries Commission have recommended that Port Glasgow, heavily industrial and a pre-war Labour stronghold, should be sheared off the constituency's eastern flank.

Despite the rumours, Dr Mabon's move will have come as a surprise to his own constituency Labour Party. "Dr Mabon has made it very clear to the party that he will not join the SDP and not leave the party," his (party-time) agent, Mrs Mary McEwan, told me.

Mr Simpson Stephenson, leader of the Labour councillors on Inverclyde District Council, said he had been a good comrade, but he did not leave the party. He has close relations with both industrialists and unions, and he holds regular surgeries in Greenock and Port Glasgow.

Opinion diverged locally on whether Dr Mabon had a strong personal loyalty to the Labour Party. The Liberals believed he did. Some socialists believed he did. What is certain is that Dr Mabon has not inspired anything more than grudging respect, tinged by affection.

His defection has shown the Liberals what he may now have to work.

The Tribunes

Best mates at odds in foyer of the Grand

By Philip Webster

The Tribune's left were taking a beating over the vitriolic attack on them by Mrs Margaret Beckett, one of the Bennites ousted from the national executive committee, at a rally organised by the Tribune newspaper on Wednesday night at the Grand Theatre.

With Mr Neil Kinnock, who had publicly announced he would not support Mr Benn sitting alongside her, Mrs Beckett's former under secretary of state for education, launched an astonishing diatribe against the abstainers whom she blamed for costing Mr Benn the election.

Later, in the foyer of the Grand Theatre, the Tribune group was involved in a public row with Miss Joan Lester, MP for Eton and Slough, another prominent left wing abstainer.

Miss Lester was particularly upset because, when she resigned as under secretary for education in 1976 over education cuts, it was Mrs Beckett who replaced her.

And yesterday after Mrs Beckett had repeated her criticisms in a radio interview, Miss Lester issued an angry statement saying: "I will not take lessons in Left wing unity from Margaret Beckett. She was a Labour MP, not a Tribune MP."

She said she would not accept from any colleague criticism of my record. It is perfectly fair for people to judge all of us on our actions. I think we should all be determined to be as good as we can be, as judged."

She added that as far as she was concerned she and Miss Lester were "still mates."

The organisers of the Tribune rally were furious at Mrs Beckett for upsetting the traditional revivalist tone that the Tribune group ascribes to. In today's issue of Tribune Mr Richard Clements, the editor, writes that Labour will emerge from the conference divided and bewildered and advises it

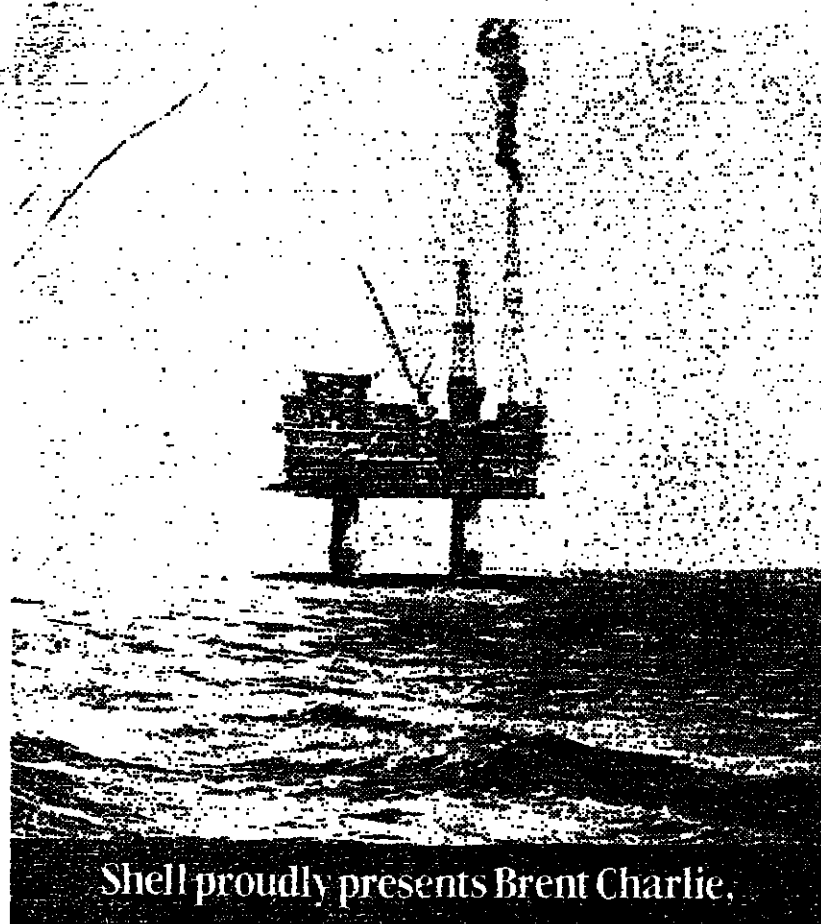
against indulging in "an orgy of mutual recrimination."

Mr Kinnock, who had expected a rough ride at the rally, was greeted with shouts of "Judas" and "apologise."

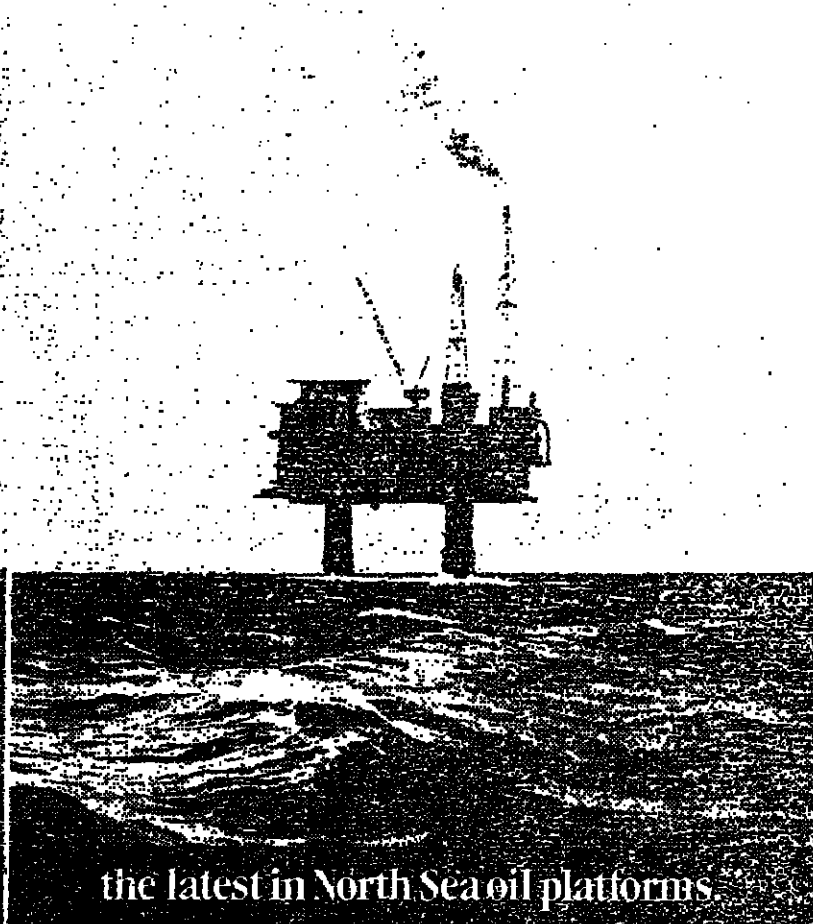
Delegates yesterday were considering the implications of Mr Benn's rally speech and an interview in yesterday's Morning Star in which he floated the idea of reviving the old Labour Representation Committee, the organisation which led to the creation of the party.

He and his backers are anxious to extend the rank and file mobilising committee, which ran his deputy election campaign, but not as a formal organisation but as an umbrella group bringing the parliamentary, rank and file and trade union activists together. They expect it to take

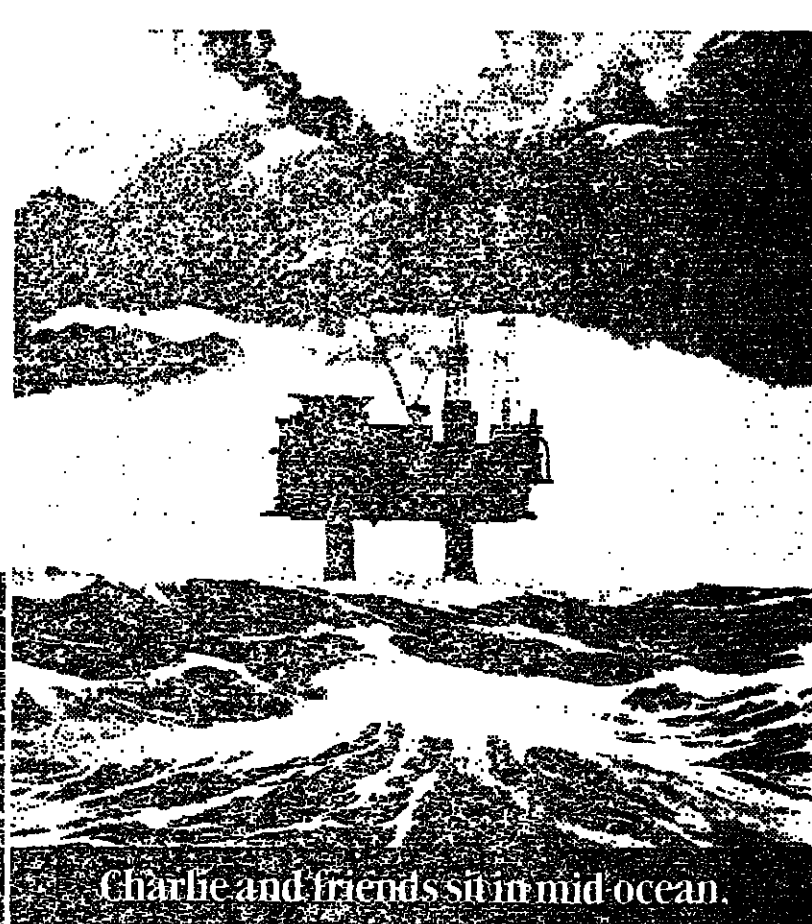
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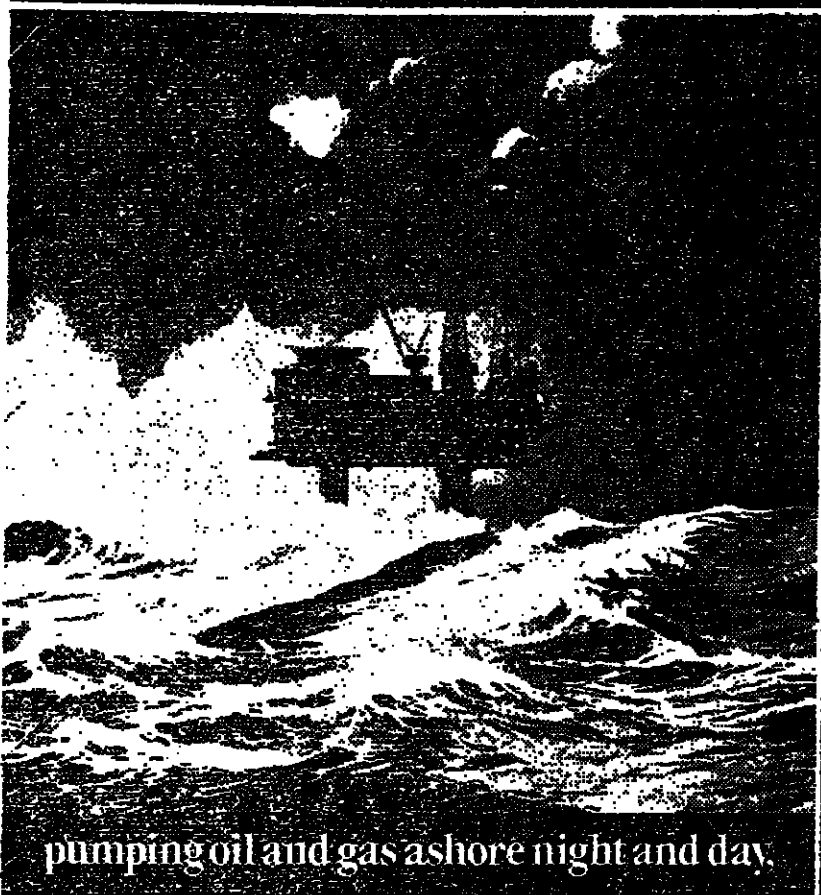
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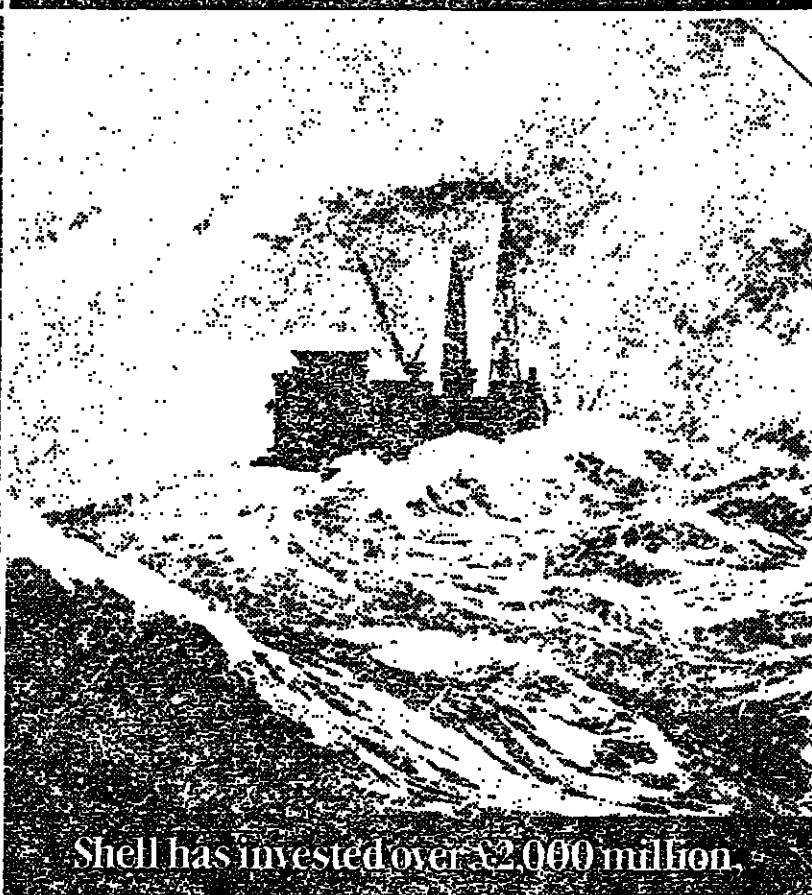
Charlie and friends sit in mid ocean.



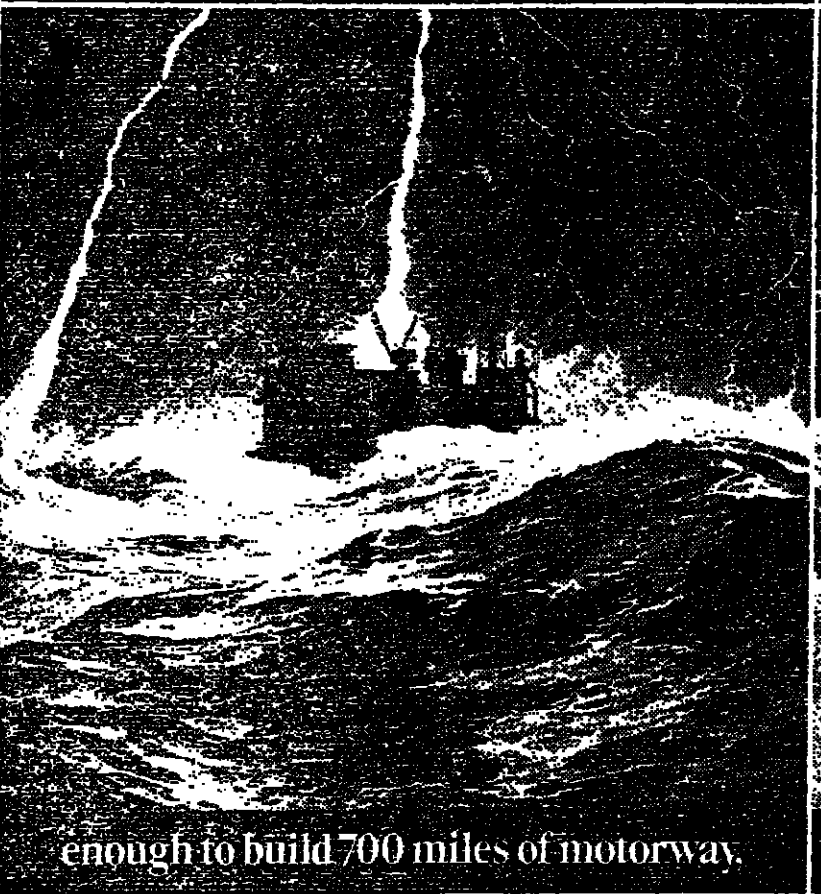
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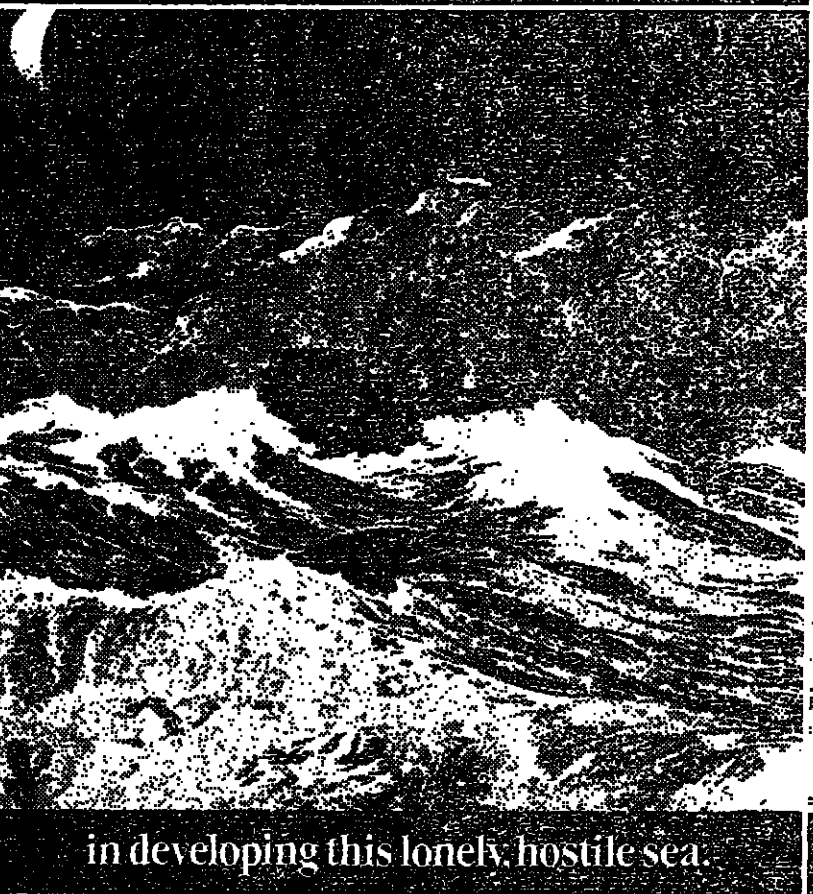
slashing Britain's bill for foreign oil.



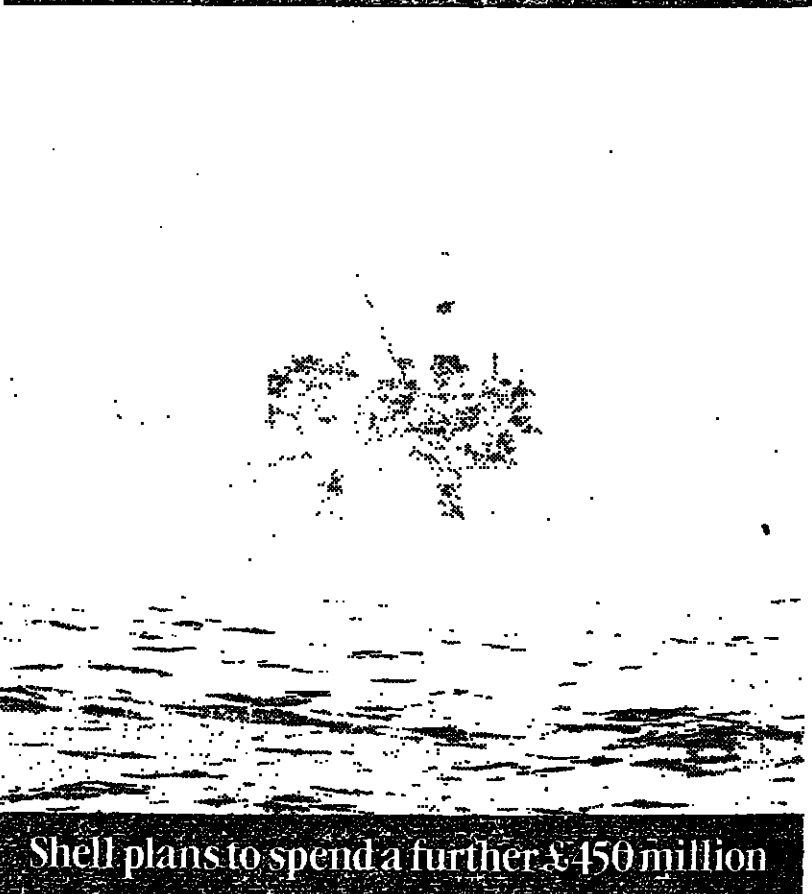
Shell has invested over £2,000 million.



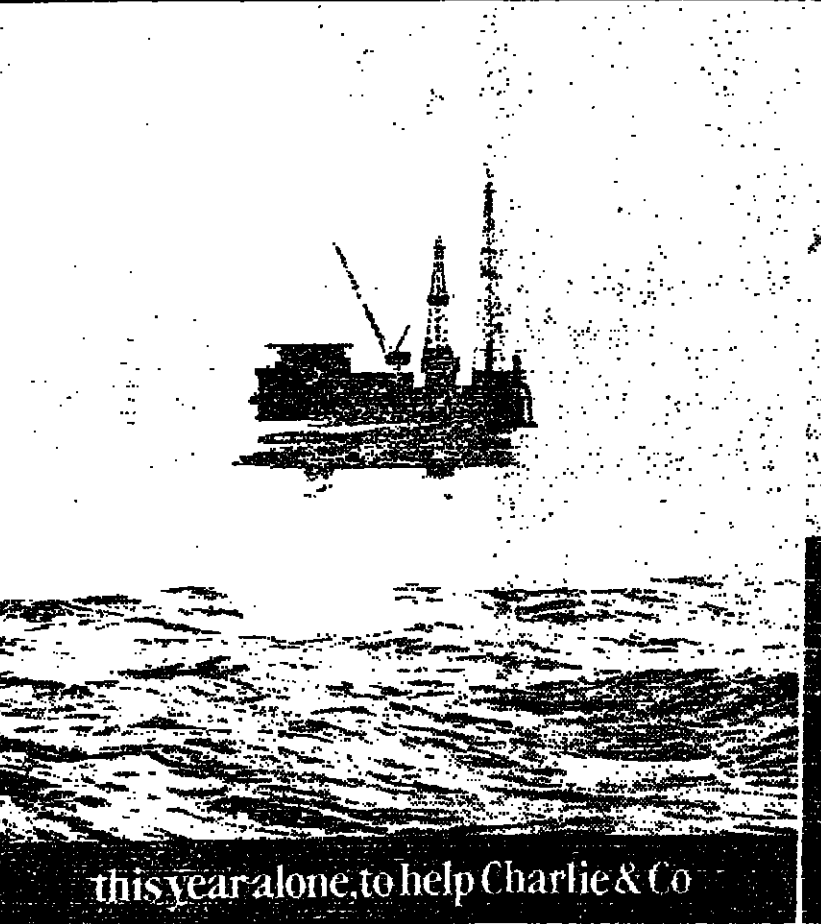
enough to build 700 miles of motorway.



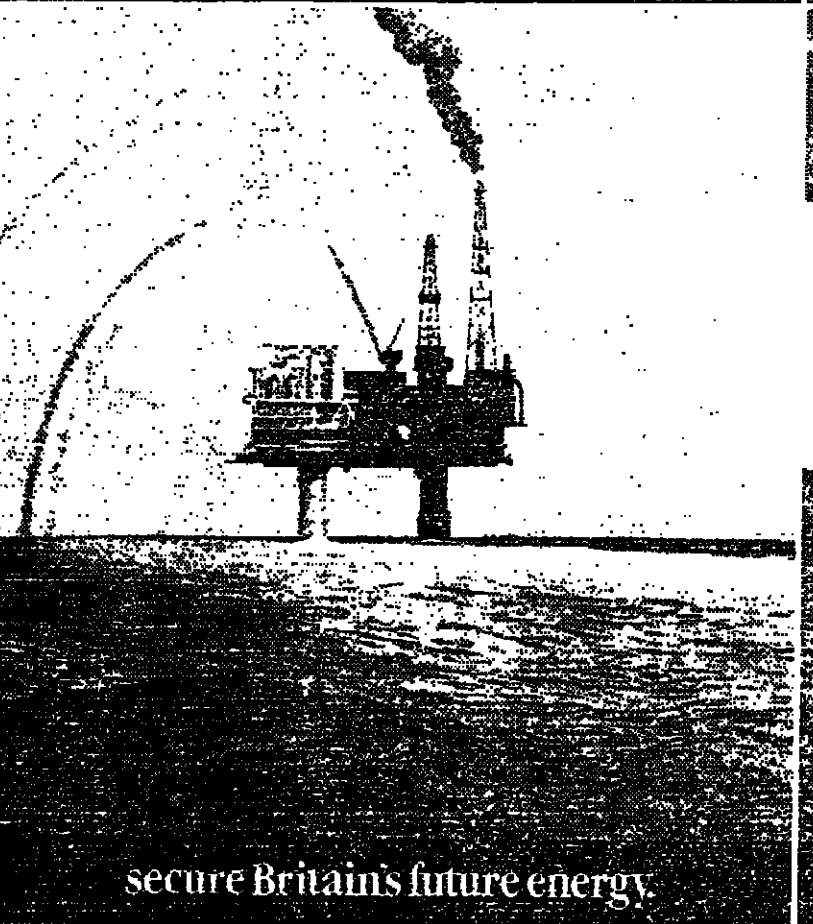
in developing this lonely, hostile sea.



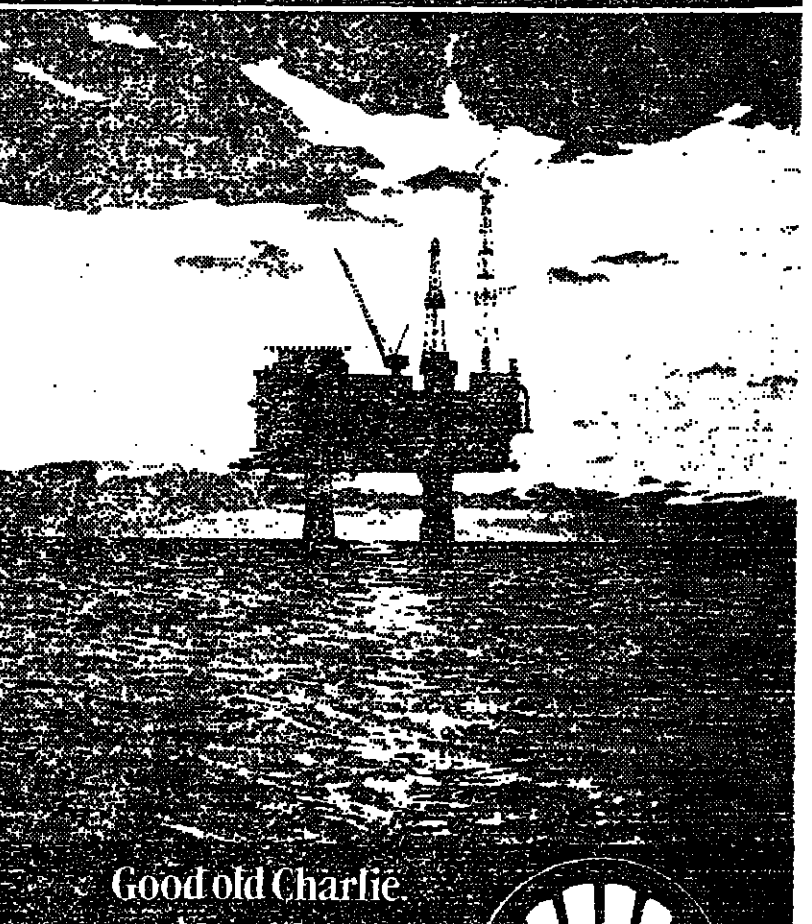
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Canadian party ends support for constitution plan

From Our Correspondent, Ottawa, Oct 1

After a caucus meeting lasting several hours longer than scheduled, the New Democratic Party yesterday withdrew its unconditional support of the Federal Government's constitutional package.

Mr Ed Broadbent, the party leader, said the party would not vote with the Government unless a final attempt was made to negotiate with the provinces.

While the majority Liberal Government would not be endangered by an unfavourable vote by the party, its support is important because of its strength in western Canada, where the Liberals gained only two of 77 parliamentary seats.

Mr Broadbent said his party had changed its stance because of the Supreme Court's ruling that unanimity among all provinces was not required for constitutional change and the further judgment that the present plan violated conventions.

The decision has reunited the party. The party's four Saskatchewan MPs who voted against the party and the Government, said they were happy with the change of attitude.

Although a strong supporter for inclusion of a charter of rights, Mr Broadbent would not speculate on how the party would respond if the charter was dropped in favour of consensus for the quick patriation of the British North America Act and the amending formula.

He would not include Quebec in any consensus because Mr Rene Levesque,

the Premier had shown little interest in returning to the bargaining table.

Meanwhile, the Quebec National Assembly started a debate on the resolution condemning the federal Government for going ahead with proposals that would "decrease the powers of Quebec" and impair its rights without its consent.

The special session heard Mr Levesque and Mr Claude Ryan, the Liberal leader, use the same type of language in condemning Ottawa. Mr Ryan said that the "defence of Quebec's legislative powers" was at stake.

Mr Levesque said his government would be prepared to continue to pass laws contrary to a federal charter of rights because there was no question of Quebec evacuating any field of jurisdiction.

He was condemned by Mr Jean Chretien, the Justice Minister, who described him as a "sometime Liberal" who, in 1976, had advocated the election of the Parti Quebecois while editor of a strongly pro-Quebec newspaper.

Mr Bill Bennett, the Premier of British Columbia, this year's chairman of the Premier's Conference, was continuing his visits to provincial capitals, discussing the possibility of a return to the conference table with Mr Angus Maclean of Prince Edward Island and Mr Brian Peckford of Newfoundland.

Mr Bennett said that there appeared to be new grounds for believing the deadlock could be ended at the conference table.

Minister starts gold rush on Bourse

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Oct 1

Just before six yesterday evening, M Laurent Fabius, the Minister for the Budget, was filling in time and nervously casting sidelong glances at his watch during the press conference at which he announced the assorted turns of the screw of the first Socialist budget France has produced in 25 years.

The explosive novelty of the wealth tax, one of the great novelties of this moralizing budget, has somewhat worn off: it has been the centre of controversy for weeks. But M Fabius had another far more secret weapon up his sleeve.

Punctually at six, after enumerating the means the Government would employ to combat tax evasion, that "social scourge", he announced with some solemnity: "That is why a decree will be published in the Journal Officiel tomorrow suppressing the anonymity of all gold transactions."

The effect was immediate and spectacular. The conference was suddenly a hubbub. And the Government has effectively started a panic among tens of thousands of hoarders, big and small, who have, through many decades of inflation, uncertainty and war, put their faith and their savings in gold.

"Silence is no longer golden" was the headline of the leftist Liberation, which found some malign pleasure in the emotion produced by the Budget Minister's announcement. He had broken one of the great taboos of French political and economic life.

Logically, he was right. How could a wealth tax be effective, if Frenchmen could continue to keep a substantial part of their wealth in the form of Napoleons, bars, and ingots, under their mattresses, in their socks or in safe deposits?

But logic has nothing to do with psychology, as M Giscard d'Estaing discovered to his cost last May. And if the Government's intention with this budget was not only to "moralize taxation" but to restore confidence in its husbandry, nothing could be more calculated to undermine it.

To soften the pill, M Fabius explained this morning that Frenchmen would not be required to declare their holdings in gold — only their transactions. But ingenious Frenchmen were already beginning to devise means of deflecting the wily minister's measures.



Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, with General Frederick Kroesen, Commander of the United States Army in Europe, who was recently attacked by terrorists in Heidelberg as he drove to work.

Explanation for banning of journalist demanded

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Oct 1

Foreign correspondents in South Africa today demanded a prompt explanation from the Government for its decision to expel Miss Cynthia Stevens, a Johannesburg-based reporter of the Associated Press. This is the second case in a month in which the South African authorities have taken action against an American journalist.

On Monday, Mr Nathan Gibson, Johannesburg bureau chief of United Press International, is to appear in court on charges under the Defence Act after a story he wrote 15 months ago about troop movements during disturbances by black strikers. He faces a heavy fine or five years jail if convicted.

Mr Jonathan Kapstein, chairman of the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southern Africa said today that both the Gibson case and the expulsion of Miss Stevens were ominous developments for the foreign press corps in South Africa.

Miss Stevens has been given 14 days to leave South Africa, after being denied accreditation since March, but has not been told why she must go. An official of the Department of Internal Affairs said it was not its policy to give explanations of such decisions. The FCA executive said

today that it believed Miss Stevens was entitled to an explanation for her expulsion even if there can be no appeal against an administrative decision.

It said that it deplored the decision and urged the Government to give an explanation without delay. It was also asking for a meeting with either Mr R F Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, or Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of the Interior, to discuss this and other matters concerning foreign correspondents in South Africa.

[Karachi: A military court has sentenced a senior Pakistani journalist who acted as spokesman for Mrs Bhutto, widow of Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the executed former Prime Minister to a year's jail and ten lashes.

Mr Irsay Rao, was the chief executive of Musawari, the former Prime Minister's newspaper published in Karachi and banned by the military regime. He was also chief editor of the pro-left Urdu language weekly *Al-Fatah*.

[Luanda: Herr Ivo Ursic, a West German television journalist is to be quickly expelled from Angola, the ruling MPLA party's information department said today (AFP reports).

Senate vote against Unita ban

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Oct 1

The United States Senate has voted to repeal a ban on Government aid to Unita guerrillas in Angola, in a move which threatens to complicate the Administration's strained relations with black Africa.

The repeal of the amendment prohibiting such aid can still be blocked in the House of Representatives, where the Foreign Affairs committee recently voted for retention of the ban.

There is also a strong chance that the \$5,800m (£3,200m) foreign aid Bill, to which the amendment is attached, will not even reach the House floor. If this happened, the foreign aid programme would be extended at current levels and there would be no legislative vehicle this year to enact repeal of the amendment.

It is known as the Clark amendment after former Senator Dick Clark and was adopted in 1976 after it was disclosed that the Ford Administration was secretly aiding Mr Jonas Savimbi's Unita and Mr Holden Roberto's FNLA forces.

10 years at the top

The boss who thrives on Nato flak

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Oct 1

Dr Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General of Nato, tells the story about his granddaughter with obvious pride and joy. "My grandfather does no work," she apparently told someone. "He does no work because he is the boss".

"The boss" has now been in charge of organizing the defence of the West for 10 years. Whatever his granddaughter may think, it involves a great deal of work. Travel and general mental torment on a scale which would deter many younger men but which Dr Luns gives every appearance of relishing. At 70 years old the shoulders are a bit stooped, but he provides around the endless corridors of Nato with a loping stride which can leave retainers breathless in his wake. From a distance his height, plucked moustache and creased face give the impression of a reincarnated De Gaulle charging forward.

He has his critics, who think him too old too uncertain and too erratic to be left in charge of the alliance. He does not share their viewpoint. He meets the inevitable question of his impending retirement readily enough.

"I will retire one day, but then I will die one day, too", he says. "If I were to retire I would give very long-term notice to the governments, and I haven't given it yet. And if I had given it I wouldn't tell you".

In the course of his term at Nato he says he has seen a real change in the emphasis of the alliance, switching from the military to the consultative process. It was a change he believed was already under way when he took the job, but which he encouraged.

That encouragement was given by the way he tackled the job, constantly meeting the heads of all the missions and developing a real dialogue. He has made himself into a trusted go-between, stitching the alliance together.

His guiding philosophy has remained unchanged since he was given the job by acclaim in 1971. "I hoped to give Nato strong enough leadership and policies and to do what I could to keep up the military posture of Nato. The prime aim has been to keep the peace".

He will not have it that the alliance is in any form of disarray although he admits it is going through a very difficult period. "When I came to office

there was not one member who disputed the absolute necessity to have a nuclear deterrent in order to preserve peace. Now it is being contested by very vociferous minorities in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Germany, and that poses problems".

He sees them as no more than problems because the governments involved have yet to follow such "disruptive and dangerous ideas".

For the moment it is his priority to head off these ideas. In a speech in London, he warned that there was "a graver risk than perhaps ever before that the divergencies this time might lead to divisions within the alliance that could prove exceedingly difficult to mend".

He was, however, optimistic that the permanent values of the West could be mutually seen as being more enduring than the divergencies. Oddly enough, he says that his greatest worry is not working out how to outmanoeuvre the Soviet Union — that, he seems to take in his lengthy stride. Neither is he over-worried about keeping harmony within the alliance.

His greatest concern, he says, is making staff appointments within Nato. He takes the final decision on all senior appointments and more than a passing interest in recruitment even to clerical grades.

The abuse he has received during his term in office has not been from the Kremlin, unilateralists or pacifists, but from angry governments within the alliance, infuriated that one of their candidates for a job has been passed over.

The battle to succeed him threatens to be one of the more deadly fought within Nato.



Dr Luns: Still fighting to keep the peace

Trudeau prepares to meet the challenge head on

From David Watts, Melbourne, Oct 1

For a man facing the political crisis of his career, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is remaining remarkably calm.

While opposition to his plans to bring home the Canadian Constitution gathers momentum, Mr Trudeau is going about the business of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting with public aplomb.

But in private he is spending much of his time on the telephone to Ottawa working on the strategy to meet head on the political challenges.

He had lunch with the Queen today and dinner with other leaders on the royal

yacht Britannia last night. There was little chance for privacy, but it is thought that he made good use of a few minutes alone with the Queen at lunch time today to discuss the return of the British North America Act to Canada.

He is determined to go through with it despite the New Democratic Party's move and hints from the Premier of Quebec that he may call a referendum on the plan.

Many other leaders would have scurried home to deal with such a threat. But he intends to stay until the end of the meeting and visit Fiji before he faces the Canadian political pandemonium.

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Schmidt clashes with Brandt over peace rally

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Oct 1

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Herr Willy Brandt, West Germany's two top Social Democratic leaders, have clashed head on over plans for a big peace demonstration.

The party is divided and the latest rifts come on top of serious election losses for the SPD and growing speculation over a possible break-up of the Social Democratic - Free Democratic coalition.

The demonstration in Bonn on Saturday week is against the neutron bomb and Nato plans to station new missiles in Europe. It is expected to attract at least 100,000 people from all over West Germany and neighbouring countries and is the first of a series planned by European pacifists in Amsterdam, London, Rome and Paris, and culminating in Brussels on December 6, the eve of the Nato Council meeting.

The Chancellor and right-wing members of his party are incensed that the demonstration is being supported by their own youth movement, the Jusos, and that leading SPD and FDP left-wingers are among the speakers.

They fear that it will lead to riots and strengthen the impression of rampant pacifism and anti-Americanism in the two ruling parties.

At a party meeting which the SPD had tried to hush up, Herr Schmidt called the demonstration a "declaration

of battle against the Government" and criticized what he saw as Herr Brandt's failure to keep the party united behind the Chancellor's policies.

Herr Brandt, who has resisted pressure to appeal to SPD members not to take part in the demonstration, stuck to his argument that the party should try to absorb the young people in the peace movement and not turn its back on them. He underlined this with a thinly veiled threat to resign.

Forty-eight Social Democratic members of Parliament have signed a statement supporting the demonstration and several have said they plan to attend.

The SPD dropped from 44.9 per cent to 36.9 per cent of the vote and lost many strongholds while the Christian Democrats gained an absolute majority with 50.2 per cent. The Free Democrats remained roughly stationary with 6.4 per cent while the Ecological "Green" Party won 3.2 per cent.

Rumours are rife in Bonn that the Free Democrats are preparing a possible switch to a coalition with the Christian Democrats in 1982 or 1983 but they deny this.

Battle of the Bolshoi

Soviet ballet brought to book

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Oct 1

The cover looks harmless enough: details from a Degas painting of a ballet class. But the short history of classical ballet has caused such an artistic and political furor that the head of the publishing house has been dismissed, all remaining copies withdrawn from sale and senior party officials again drawn into the feuding that has engulfed the Soviet ballet world.

Ballet is the most politicized of all the performing arts in the Soviet Union. And as the standard bearer of Russian culture and prestige at home and abroad, the mighty Bolshoi Ballet is meant to be above reproach. So when a leading Soviet critic voiced in print the widespread disquiet over the ballet's stale repertoire, conservative approach, dictatorial direction and lack of exciting new choreography — there was bound to be trouble.

The book, "Divertissement — the Fate of Classical Ballet", is a series of illustrated essays on the development of Russian ballet. But it has some harsh things to say about the man today responsible for upholding and developing the traditions of the 205-year-old Bolshoi company: Yuri Grigorovich, the brilliant, austere, autocratic chief choreographer and artistic director.

Things have been festering at the Bolshoi for several years as criticisms of the 54-year-old director increased. They ranged from accusations of favouritism and petty blacklisting of promising dancers he disliked, to the

more fundamental ones that Grigorovich, in spite of his many triumphs over the past 17 years, was stifling the Bolshoi with a lack of innovation and squandering the huge company's many talents. Grigorovich, who appears to be going through an artistic crisis, has been bitterly criticized by several leading members of the company.

At a stormy meeting in October, 1979, however, Grigorovich faced his critics and reasserted his authority. The Soviet cultural ministry backed him up, ordered an end to all further squabbling, and a truce was arranged.

Against such a background, therefore, the criticisms by Vadim Gayevsky, the respected author of "Divertissement", have added piquancy and were taken as another challenge to Grigorovich, one which the authorities feared would start the battle again.

Gayevsky's principal charges are that Grigorovich has produced little of worth since "Legend of Love", a ballet that established his reputation in the early 1960s and his staging of "The Nutcracker". But the book also calls his lyrics "undanceable", and while acknowledging him as an innovator, asks whether he really carries on the classical tradition.

More serious charges are made about Soviet choreography as a whole. Mr Gayevsky considers that there was no choreographer of any stature before Mr Grigorovich from the 1930s until the 1950s, and that in effect this post was vacant.



Maya Plisetskaya: Prima ballerina with influence

He praises individual dancers — Plisetskaya, Vasiliev and Maximova and Natalia Bessmertnova, who is Mr Grigorovich's wife — but suggests their achievements are independent of any overall direction or choreographic skill. By contrast, he holds up the examples of the Western choreographers Bjart and Balanchine, whose work is praised as vital and innovative.

Such criticisms might seem fair comment, and are certainly not new, but the response was immediate and outraged.

In a long attack, *Sovetskaya Kultura*, representing the official viewpoint, accused Mr Gayevsky of denigrating all the achievements of Soviet ballet in the past 50 years, of tendentiously contrasting the heights of American ballet with the traditionalism of the Soviet scene, of belittling Mr Grigorovich's best known ballet *Spartacus*, which has received lavish official praise because of its suitable ideological message.

What clearly angered the authorities was the public mention of dissent in the company. The book coyly refers to conflicts of personalities within the company, but the author professes ignorance of the details. This mention alone is unacceptable.

Mr Grigorovich's position could be protected only by presenting the attacks on him as an attack on the whole company and by implication on the cultural authorities who had awarded state prizes to artists criticized or ignored in the book.

He took the matter to the party's central committee, and reprisal was swift. The director of the Iskustvo publishing house, who had authorized the book, was dismissed and all remaining copies of the 25,000 printed were called in after a few days. Mr Gayevsky appears not to have suffered but he will probably never be published again.

Spanish employers angered by state subsidy for unions

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Oct 1

Spain's influential Confederation of Employers' Organizations (CEOE) has announced that it is withdrawing from the tripartite pact to fight unemployment that it signed last June with the Government and the trade unions.

It took this step after the Government released yesterday details of next year's budget, which includes provision of 800m pesetas (£4.4m) for the trade union's social activities.

The move, which has gone down very badly in government circles, is seen here as a further attempt by the employer's organization to put pressure on the administration of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo to move to the right in preparation for the next general election.

Señor Carlos Ferrer, president of CEOE, publicly advised the ruling party last month to abandon its "ambiguous" centrist positions.

The Prime Minister worked hard to persuade industrialists and bankers of the political importance of reaching an agreement with the unions. In return for low wage increases next year, in all probability below the rate of inflation, some 350,000 new jobs would be created in the public and private sectors.

The affront to Señor Calvo Sotelo represents a victory for the hardliners within CEOE who, have recently insisted on taking an increasingly challenging political stand.

The subsidy to the unions is evidently only a pretext for a further demonstration against the Government, though admittedly the budget also signals a higher than expected public sector borrowing requirement and higher company taxes.

There were frequent calls for the Government to resign when protesters voiced their anger over the adulterated cooking oil scandal in the streets here last night. An estimated 50,000 people marched in protest demanding heavy sentences for those responsible for the fraud.

In spite of Government denials, Dr Antonio Borrego, the director of the National Food and Nutrition Centre, today insisted that certain cheap wines here contain a preservative which is poisonous. He was involved in a public polemic with Spain's newly appointed Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs.

Victims in wheel chairs and black-clad relatives of those who died in the cooking oil tragedy headed the march which was called by the Socialist and Communist trade unions. The official death toll from the oil is now nearing 150, but 1,000 people are still in hospital.

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist Leader, has meanwhile addressed a letter to party members urging them to display maturity and not to react emotionally to attacks which, he says, are the work of a "dirty propaganda war".

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We have developed an impressive number of services to help British companies increase efficiency, save time as well as money, improve their business communication and distribution. They range from high technology communications systems to just plain common-sense facilities to help

our business customers get the most from their post. Many companies are already using these services. Are you taking full advantage of them? Do you know all you need to know about them? To pinpoint the ways we can help, we suggest you use this questionnaire. If you are a bigger

company, circulate it amongst your executives or colleagues. If you are running your business yourself, take a minute to see how many satisfactory answers you come up with. Then ask your secretary to fill in the right hand section below and send the whole advertisement back to us for action!

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Royal Mail

Get the most from your post

US warned of threat to Sudan

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Oct 1

Vice-President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt left today for hastily arranged consultations in Washington on President Ronald Reagan and an Administration official over Sudan's complaints of Libyan bombing raids on its frontier villages.

During three days of talks he will seek American assistance for Sudan and Egypt to confront possible Libyan subversion.

Although Mr Mubarak would only say his visit was "urgent and important", General Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala, the Egyptian Defence Minister, said it was related to events in Sudan. Egypt believed that the Libyans, with Soviet backing, were going to "try to push across" the Sudan-Chad frontier "in order to divert attention from something the Soviets may be going to do in Poland".

The minister added that Libya was "reinforcing its troops in Chad and training mercenaries, including Sudanese, to send them to Kordofan and Darfur" (two border Sudanese provinces). The plan was to create unrest in the areas to allow the Libyans to send in their troops.

General Abu Ghazala's remarks to reporters, soon after he saw off Mr Mubarak, came a day after President Anwar Sadat declared that Egypt would retaliate fiercely if Libya initiated any hostilities against Sudan. Egypt and Sudan, which share the river Nile, are also linked in a common defence pact.

Sudan announced this week that Soviet-built Libyan MIGs had bombed several frontier towns and villages in 19 days of hostilities which started on September 10. The Sudanese said that a long with Chadian guerrillas, they had shot down one of two Libyan aircraft on September 16.

General Abu Ghazala, describing the situation along the frontier as "serious", said Vice-President Mubarak would seek American military assistance for the Sudan, including anti-aircraft missiles.

"Sudan is in bad shape. They need help", he said. Sudan is Africa's biggest state strategically located with frontiers on seven African countries and long shores along the Red Sea, where many Western oil tankers pass.

Incensed officials at the American Embassy here protested to the editors of the two newspapers, both of them right wingers; but to no avail and the only way President Duarte was able to secure the publicity he both wanted and needed for his visit was through four-page advertising supplements which appeared on Saturday.

American officials believe that the right is trying to pressure the United States into withdrawing its support from the ruling junta.

Although the United States remains officially committed to a timetable which would lead to the election of a constitutional Assembly next March and a new president a year later, these goals are now seen as virtually unattainable.

The launching today of Thailand's fifth five-year economic and social development plan coincided with the departure of General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, to the United States to seek more economic, political and military cooperation.

One of the objectives of the plan is to help Thailand to develop heavy industry by using natural gas, which has just come on stream, and immense supplies of cheap labour, iron and steel, sponge iron, soda ash and chemical fertilizers are among planned projects.

Mr Peter Rees, the British Minister of Trade, said last week during a visit to Thailand that he hoped British companies would take part in the projects.

The five-year plan, however, puts most emphasis on the eradication of poverty among the 11.5 million rural people a quarter of whom are living below the official poverty line. Part of the objective is also to reduce the

Right-wing vitriol hits Duarte

From Our Correspondent
San Salvador, Oct 1

Right-wing political groups in El Salvador have launched a vitriolic campaign against President José Napoleón Duarte since his arrival in his country during his visit to the United States.

The intensity of their campaign, as well as its timing has provoked widespread dismay among American officials here who fear that American political strategy may be about to go the same way as its military strategy and question whether it will be possible or worthwhile, to press ahead with elections scheduled for next March.

President Duarte, a Christian Democrat who heads a junta of civilian and military figures, has been visiting the United States to reassure American opinion that his government is in control. His visit coincided with a hardening of congressional opinion in Washington against the Reagan Administration's commitment to El Salvador.

The local right wing, using private sector business groups as cover, took advantage of the President's absence to launch a campaign against him which reached a climax with a rally in San Salvador on Saturday where speaker after speaker attacked the Government's performance.

Preparations for the rally were given front page treatment in San Salvador's two principal newspapers through-out last week while only scant attention was paid to President Duarte's activities, including meeting with President Reagan.

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Thai five-year plan aims at combating poverty

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Oct 1

The launching today of Thailand's fifth five-year economic and social development plan coincided with the departure of General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, to the United States to seek more economic, political and military cooperation.

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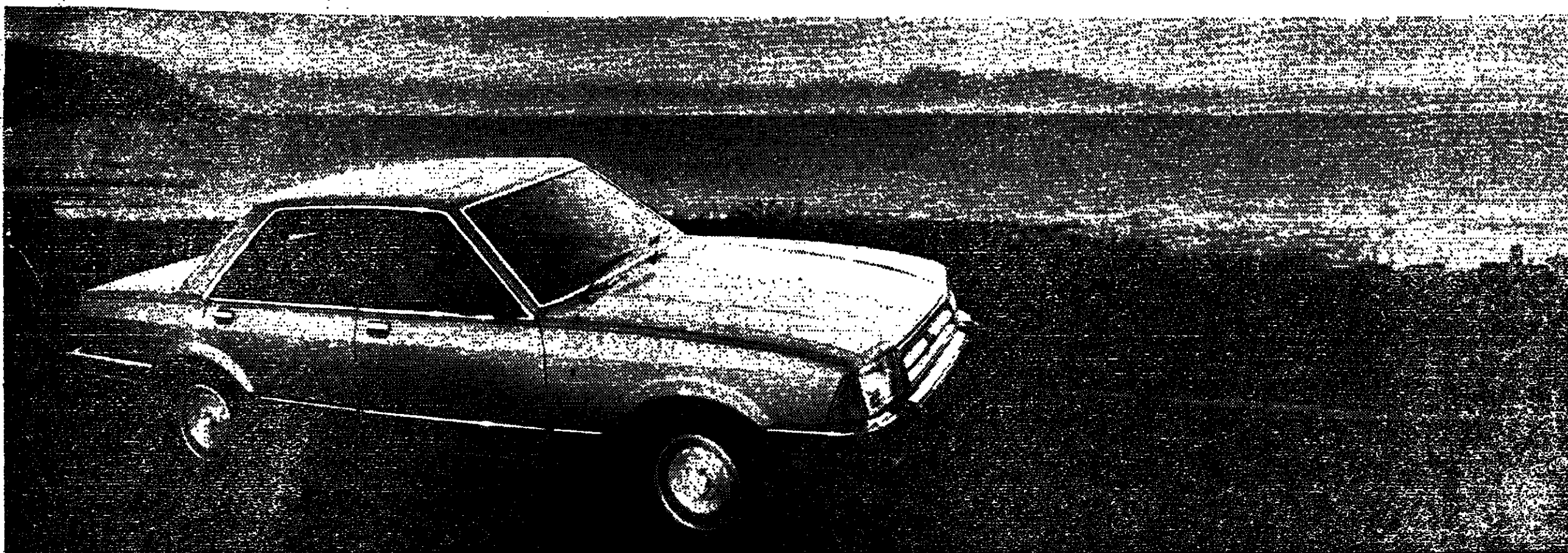
The five-year plan, however, puts most emphasis on the eradication of poverty among the 11.5 million rural people a quarter of whom are living below the official poverty line. Part of the objective is also to reduce the

widening gap between rich and poor.

Thousands of industrial workers have been dismissed in the past fortnight before the introduction of new minimum wages which came into effect today. In Bangkok the wage is now £1.50 a day and in the provinces £1.30. Many employers claim they cannot afford to pay the higher wages.

□ Fewer refugees: A spokesman at the Bangkok office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees denied today that 94,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand had signed statements requesting repatriation. His office had seen no signed statements, he said, commenting on a Bangkok newspaper report that nearly all the Cambodian refugees in Thailand had asked to be sent back to their country.

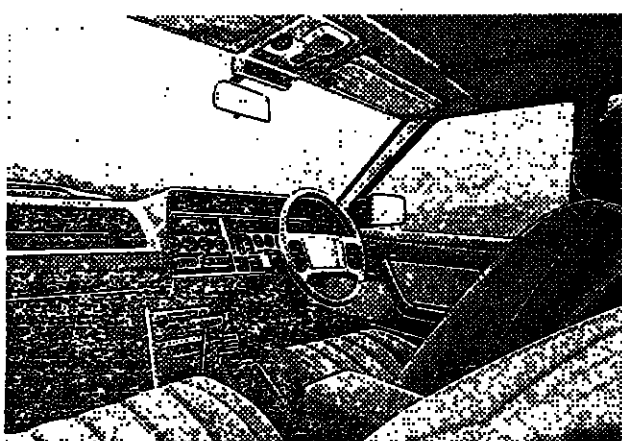
United Nations officials had estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 refugees wished to be repatriated.



Friday night and 200 miles to drive. What better introduction to the 1982 Ford Granada.

I'd never driven a 1982 model Granada before, and Bob had never driven a car like mine, so, just for a change, we decided to swop for the weekend.

His Ghia was waiting in my parking space when I left the office. Late as usual, Joanna wouldn't be amused.



At first glance, the new car looked almost identical to the previous model, but closer inspection revealed some subtle changes. As time went on I found they rather grew on me.

The grille had fewer, but broader, slats, which apparently improve its aerodynamic penetration. And the bumpers wrap further round the wings than before. Functional changes rather than decorative, but that's typical of Ford these days.

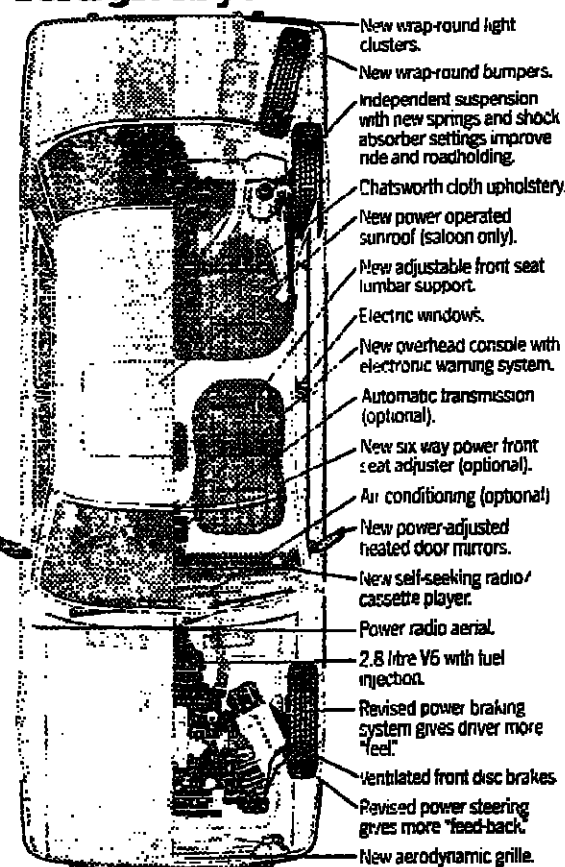
It's my impression that they only alter their cars when they know they can make a genuine improvement. And then only when the technology involved has been thoroughly tested.

But back to the Granada.

The driver's door clunked shut with a nicely engineered feel, closing out the trials of the week.

I noticed that the courtesy lights stayed on for a few seconds to give me time to make myself at home.

Ford gives you more.



There was much that was new to me.

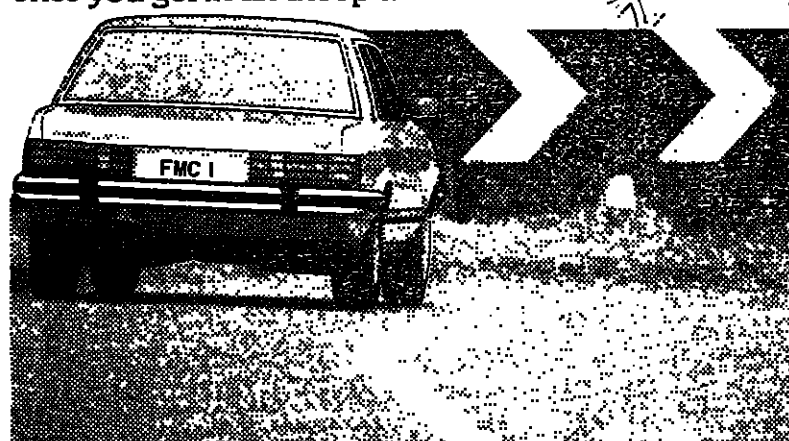
Bob opted for the electrically adjustable driver's seat – up and down, backwards and forwards, you can even tilt it. There's an adjustable lumbar support in the back rest too. And the upholstery is made of a restful material called Chatsworth cloth. All in pleasantly muted colours.

The door mirrors are electrically controlled as well, and heated so that they don't mist up.

I counted no less than six dials and sixteen switches in front of me, but the beauty of it is that everything is arranged so logically that it only takes a second to find your way around.

Another feature I hadn't encountered before was the electronic warning system which keeps a check on all the car's fluid levels and even on its brake pad wear. (As I invariably find that my windscreen washer bottle runs out just as the sun is setting in my eyes, that was a little bit of technology that I'd be grateful for.)

In a Ghia, the system is housed in an overhead console along with the electric sunroof control and two swivelling map reading lights like the ones you get in an aeroplane.



Time to get moving. The engine, a splendid V6 with fuel injection, started with a distant hum and ticked over so smoothly that I found myself looking at the rev counter just to confirm that it was still running.

I eased out into the traffic feeling very conscious that I was driving someone else's car, something that always makes me a little anxious.

I needn't have been. Big though the Granada is, it seems to shrink in traffic. From your commanding position behind the wheel, you can see all four corners of the car, which always inspires confidence. And the power steering is so quick and light that you can slip through the narrowest gaps without flinching. Incidentally, the faster you go the less power assistance there is, so the steering doesn't lose its "feel" at speed.

I stopped at the flower stall as usual ("Not another new car, Guv?"), bought my

peace offering, then headed for the motorway.

As you'd expect, that's where the Granada comes into its own. I'm not a speed merchant myself, but I do enjoy a powerful car, and this one was obviously capable of cruising way above the legal limit.

I soon settled down to my usual pace, roof open, evening sun on my face and an old Cannonball Adderley tape on the stereo wishing I was twenty again.

However, as I joined the 303, my enjoyment was interrupted by a bank of black clouds. Why does it always have to rain when I'm going to the country for the weekend?

The Granada didn't seem to mind though.

According to Bob, Ford have adjusted the spring and shock absorber rates in the all independent suspension, which has not only made the ride even smoother, but has also battered down the roadholding. The low profile tyres have terrific grip too.

It reminded me of an article I read in an issue of Car, which said that the Granada now "out-handles some of the best cars in Europe." Since they were comparing it with BMWs and Merces I had been a little sceptical, but now I wasn't so sure.

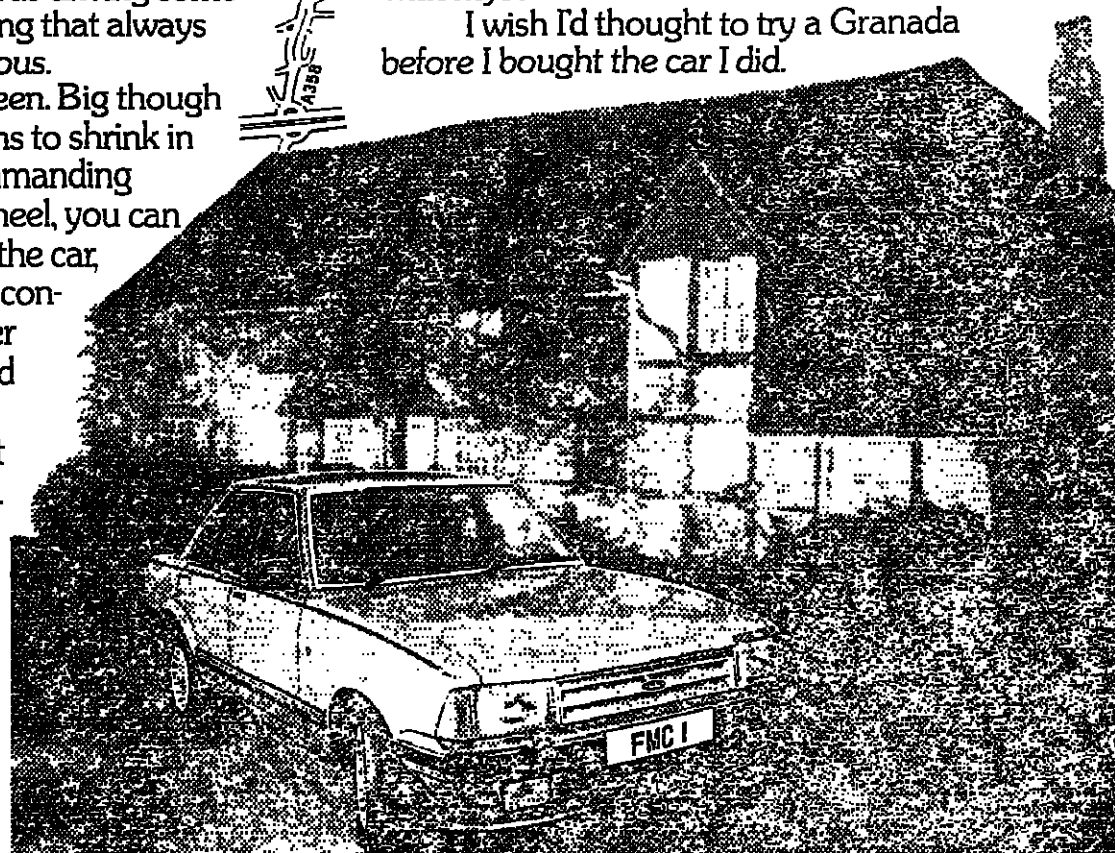
The corners didn't feel as sharp as usual to me, even in this weather, with the road made greasy by falling leaves.

As I neared home, cocooned in the warm cockpit, the instruments glowing softly, and the

powerful headlights throwing a tunnel of white light through the rainy darkness, I couldn't help wondering whether Bob was enjoying my car as much as I was enjoying his.

As it turned out, he hadn't been. And I've been feeling slightly annoyed with myself ever since.

I wish I'd thought to try a Granada before I bought the car I did.



FORD GRANADA



THE TIMES ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

● Production difficulties have reduced the size of this week's Preview. The normal 16-page format will be resumed next week.

Films

David Robinson and Geoff Brown

● The information in this section was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made, and it is advisable to check, using the telephone number given with each listing.

London cinemas

● The bold letter N at the end of a listing indicates that the film is on national release during the coming week.

Altered States (X): Ken Russell's psychedelic nightmare, with Blair Brown and Bob Balaban. (Warner West End, 439 0791)

Amin — The Rise and Fall (X): A somewhat artless chronicle of the eight years and half a million murders of the clown-despot's reign. (Scene, Leicester Square, 439 4470)

The Aviator's Wife (A): The first in Eric Rohmer's new series of "comedies and provokes" — enchanting and moves, through the simplest of means: just several young Parisians talking in a room, in a cafe or a park, and experiencing the full, baffling complexity of human relationships. As in all Rohmer's best films, the characters glow with life. (Academy 1, Oxford Street, 437 2981)

Babylon (X): Franco Rosso's view of young black London, with Brinsley Forde. (Scene, Leicester Square, 439 4470)

Bustin' Loose (A): With Richard Pryor. (Ritz, Leicester Square, 437 1234)

Chariots of Fire (A): Surprisingly entertaining story of Olympic winners Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell and the road they travelled to glory in 1924. With Ben Cross and Ian Charleson. (Cinecitta, Leicester Square, 930 0631; Classic, Chelsea, 352 5096)

ALTERNATIVE THEATRE

DIKE OF YORKS 836 3122
Simon Galloway & Patrick Ryecart in
The World Premiere of
THE BATTLE OF BATHURST
J.P. Donnelly's
Proclamation of the
Victory of a
Comedy

GATE 228 0706
Hits from the Edinburgh Festival
"THE BARRONS" by
Wildehead until 10 Oct at 8pm

GEORGE INN 467 2056
77 Borough High St. SE1
100 MIDLANDS PRESENTS
"THE BARRONS" by
Wildehead until 10 Oct at 8pm

HALF MOON 710 4000
213 Mile End Rd. E1
Incl. Entertainment Inc. including
A.A.

WITNESSES 437 2981
Written & directed by Andrew Carr
with Robin Munn, Helen Miles
Mary Peach, Laura Jones
Mon-Sat 8pm

L.C.A. 930 3647
The Mill, SW1
The Mill of the Sun at 8 Oct
with
THE MILL OF THE SUN
A play about the sun
by THE WOMEN'S THEATRE GROUP
in its
The last part of the
Omen trilogy. (Cinecitta,
Leicester Square, 930 0631;
Classic, Tottenham Court Road,
436 6248; Studio, Oxford
Circuit, 437 3300) N

ORANGE TREE 940 3633
THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZMAN
Mon-Fri 8pm Sat 5.45pm & 8.20pm

PROBABLY 437 4306
Royal Shakespeare Company
in the
EDUCATING YIPPA
Comedy of the Year
CIVIL 1980

TRICYCLE 329 8856
by David Freeman
presented by Michael
until 10 Oct at 8pm
Mon-Fri 8pm Sat 5.45pm & 8.20pm

YORK & ALBANY 387 8541
125 Parkway, NW1
with 11 Oct Mon-Tue at 8pm
THE GARDEN HUNT
by Sam Mendes
Cinecitta, 930 0631; Classic, Chelsea, 352 5096

Join our FREE mailing list. Send see to Dept 1
THEATRE DISPATCH,
31 Shaftesbury, W1N 8WT

City of Women (X): Falling asleep in a train compartment, Marcello Mastroianni is led by dreamy down some familiar Fellini byways in quest of the Ideal Woman. Although more than usually dosed with wish-fulfillment, this agreeable fluid fantasy makes a handsome and intriguing addition to the director's canon. (Classic, Chelsea, 352 5096; Classic, Tottenham Court Road, 636 6148; Screen on the Hill, 435 3366)

The Constant Factor (A): Another key work in the current spate of Polish films. Krzysztof Zanussi won the Best Director prize at the 1980 Cannes Festival for this elegiac but barbed drama about a young man trying to maintain a single moral standard in a society sunk in cynicism and corruption. (Gate 2, Bloomsbury, 837 1177)

Enter the Ninja (X): Martial arts spoof with no real kick with Susan George and Franco Nero. (Classic, Oxford Street, 636 0310; Warner West End, 439 0791)

Escape from New York (AA): John Carpenter's prediction of the horrors of a dystopian future. The promise of its premise: crime has so escalated that all Manhattan has been turned into a vast maximum security jail; the President of the United States is held hostage when his plane crashes on the island; a criminal hero sent to rescue him has time-bombs in his bloodstream that will go off if his mission is not completed within a time limit. After this, it fizzles out in the old adventure clichés. With Donald Pleasance and Lee Van Cleef. (Classic, Haymarket, 839 2558; Studio, Oxford Circuit, 437 3300)

Escape to Victory (A): Prisoner-of-war drama, rather dutifully directed by John Huston, tells how the Nazi military establishment stages a football match between Allied prisoners and a German team, for propaganda purposes. Most of the cast are pro footballers, including Pele and Bobby Moore, but their lack of acting skills is covered by giving them nothing to say and putting out against two virtually non-acting stars, Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone. (Odeon, Kensington, 602 6644; Odeon, Clarendon, 437 3300; Odeon, 437 3300)

Excelsior (AA): John Boorman's Arthurian fantasy, with Nigel Terry, Helen Mirren and Nicol Williamson. (Phoenix, East Finchley, 883 2233; Warner West End, 439 0791)

Dom DeLuise meets his match in Mel Brooks's History of the World, Part I

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picture of the pains, preoccupations and loopy pleasures of adolescence. (Cinecitta, Leicester Square, 930 0631)

Heaven's Gate (X): Michael Cimino's long-awaited folie de grandeur, much reduced in length after its first release in the United States, turns out, even in the least favourable light, to be a fascinating failure. This epic \$35m Western, based on the Johnson County War between citizen and immigrant settlers in Wyoming, offers a succession of expansive, evocative and sometimes affecting tableaux which seem to be edging towards an unrealized statement about the meaning of the American Dream. (Odeon, Haymarket, 930 2736)

History of the World, Part 1: The latest Mel Brooks comedy, from October 8. (Warner West End, 439 0791)

The Last Metro (A): This story of a Parisian theatrical troupe carrying on through the Occupation is Francois Truffaut's most popular film in years and contains his virtues and vices in abundance. The players (particularly Catherine Deneuve, as the actress wife of the group's fugitive director) are deftly handled, and Truffaut's humanism undoubtedly beguiles. But beneath the attractive surface lie some worrying deficiencies: this is a deliberately faulty kind of Occupation, but the theatrical setting ultimately convinces neither as symbol nor as reality. (499 3737)

Lion of the Desert (AA): The story of the resistance of Libyan Beduin to Mussolini's occupation, and particularly the confrontation between the heavy-handed General Graziani (Oliver Reed) and the Beduin's spiritual and military leader, Omar Mukhtar (Anthony Quinn). With Rod Steiger (as Mussolini), John Gielgud and Irene Papas. (Leicester Square Theatre, 930 5252)

Man of Iron (X): The Polish events of 1980 quickly produced their first masterpiece. Andrzej Wajda's new film reconstructs the strikes of summer 1980 and the events that led up to them, starting with the bloody repressed demonstrations of 1970. Actual and reconstruction, real events and fictional people are skilfully blended; the actors include Lech Walesa and his comrades in their own roles. (Academy 2, Oxford Street, 437 5129)

Memoirs of a Survivor (X): A brave attempt, directed by David Gladwell, to adapt Doris Lessing's vision of a future of urban breakdown. Gladwell's realization of England in which all social machinery has ground to a stop, where marauding nomadic tribes roam the empty streets and where abandoned underground stations have become the dens of new cave-dwellers.

Raiders of the Lost Ark (X): Steven Spielberg's lavish and strenuous adventure for children of all ages. Centred on the dual search for the Ark of the Covenant by American archeologists and a team of nasty Nazis a few years before the Second World War. With Harrison Ford and Denholm Elliott. (ABC Bayswater, 229 4149; ABC Fulham Road, 370 2636; Coronet, Holloway, today and tomorrow, 607 4470; Plaza, Lower Regent Street, 437 1234)

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Preview



Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas are among the subjects chosen by Walter Dorin for Great Lovers, published today, with George Melly's commentary. Dorin's portraits are on show at the Portal Gallery, London W1, until October 22.

Nicholson and Jessica Lange. (Scene, Leicester Square, 430 4470; Times Centre, Baker Street, 935 9772)

Quartet (X): James Ivory's adaptation of Jean Rhys's novel, with Isabelle Adjani, Jeremy Irons, and John Gielgud. (Gate 2, Bloomsbury, until October 7, 837 1177; Gate Mayfair, 493 2031; Plaza, Lower Regent Street, 437 1234)

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Theatre
Irving Wardle and Ned Chaillet

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8.30 pm. (New End Theatre, 27 New End Road, NW3. 435 6053)

Educating Rita by Willy Russell, with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Willy Russell has fashioned an entrancing comedy, pitting common sense against academic authority. Daily at 8 pm, except Saturday, 5 pm and 8.40 pm; matinees on Wednesday at 3 pm. (Piccadilly, 437 4506)

Evita by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, with Stephanie Lawrence, John Turner and Mark Ryan. Daily at 8 pm; matinees on Saturday and Thursday at 3 pm. (Prince Edward, 437 6877)

Good: The story of an anxious young Liberal academic who finds happiness and fulfilment in the SS. C. P. Taylor's brilliantly organized musical fable includes fine performances by Alan Howard as the book-burning intellectual and Joe Melia as his Jewish best friend; and leaves you feeling you might have behaved in exactly the same way. Today and tomorrow at 7.30 pm. In repertory until October 27. (Warehouse, 836 6808/5332)

The Killing Game by Thomas Murnaghan, with Hannah Gordon and Peter Gilmore. Daily at

Top of the bill



★ **Cecil Beaton:** A collection of Beaton's war photographs goes on show at the Imperial War Museum on October 8



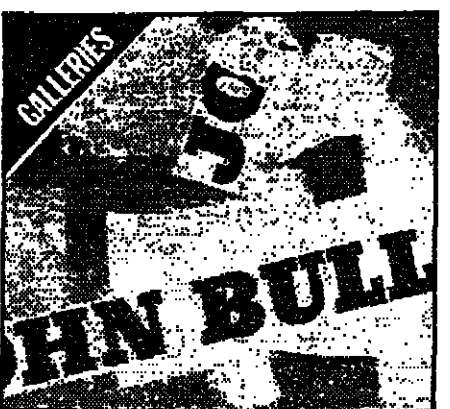
★ **PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE:** The torture of William Beausire in Post-Allende Chile begins a BBC2 series tonight



★ **KING CRIMSON:** An illustrious name from British rock history is revived at the Venue on October 8 and 9



★ **TIM SOUSTER'S WORLD MUSIC:** Electronic music, dance and film at the Mumford Theatre, Cambridge on October 8 and 9



★ **KURT SCHWITTERS:** Works produced by the German Dadaist during his British exile are at Marlborough Fine Art from today



★ **HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW:** The top showjumpers assemble for the big event at Wembley from October 5 to 10

Galleries

John Russell Taylor

Bernard Stern: Recent paintings by the British painter who has most interested himself in letters and words as an integral part of his visual world: sometimes to the point of abstraction (if peeling, graffiti-covered wall is abstract), but often in these works, a background to sporting events and violent physical activity, which are sometimes taken over and replaced by dynamic patterns made out of words. Colourful and individual. (Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3)

Kurt Schwitters in Exile: A collection of more than 150 works, consisting of oil paintings, assemblages, collages, sculpture and indefinable, produced by the German Dadaist and inventor of Merz when living in exile and forgotten in the Lake District between 1937 and 1948. A Dada spirit of disruption is balanced by a moving determination to make something lasting out of materials usually thrown away, and the man's sheer irresistible impulse to keep on keeping on, in what must have seemed the most unlikely possible circumstances. (Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1)

Nicolas de Stael: Large and long overdue retrospective, fresh from the Grand Palais in Paris, devoted to the work of the Russian-French painter whose dazzling career was cut short by suicide in 1955. Most of the paintings are on the fringes of abstraction.



De Stael's Portrait of Jeanine

but immediately approachable even at their most abstract because of Stael's stunning use of colour, at once brilliant and in his deployment of his famous greys, infinitely subtle. Paradoxically, the works of the last two or three years, when he had returned to representation, are among the most uncomplicatedly joyous of all. (Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1)

Eileen Agar: Surrealist survivor shows her work. Agar was one of the leading figures of the short-lived British chapter of international surrealism in the 1930s (a striking work of that period is in the Whitechapel sculpture show), who has gone on quietly painting and here shows recent works, in a more symbolic style but full of verve and visual imagination. (New Art Centre, 41 Sloane Street, SW1)

Gaudier-Brzeska: Drawings and small sculptures by the French artist who, in his life, did as much as anybody to revolutionize British sculpture in the years before the First World War. The show backs up some wonderful pieces in the Whitechapel sculpture show, and reminds us that no one has understood better than Gaudier the secret nature of animals in movement and at rest. (Mercury Gallery, 26 Cork Street, W1)

Photography

Michael Young

Hoyningen-Huene: A wide range of Huene's work and a chance to see his beautiful fashion photographs from the 1930s (until November 5). Also, Lucien Aigner and Tim Gidal: Aigner's photographs show his life in Europe during the 1930s. Gidal's show his work during the 1940s when he was travelling with the Eighth Army in the Middle East and Africa. (Until November 1)

Francis' Photographs: Images of the soul, by himself, of his work and his studio. On his death Strindberg left the studio and its contents to the French state. There was a mass of negatives from which this exhibition has been made. An interesting glimpse of

how the sculptor saw his own work. (Until October 17, Dudley Central Museum and Art Gallery, St. James Road, West Midlands. Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Transferring to London in November.)

War Photographs: None of the horror of war in these photographs by the fashion and society photographer Cecil Beaton, more a compassionate look at people at home and abroad and how they coped with the way the Second World War disrupted their lives. Also on show are period portraits of some of the generals and politicians who masterminded this global chess game. Not to be missed. (Until October 1982, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE16 6PU. Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5.30 pm, Sunday 2 pm to 5.30 pm)

Dance Photographs: As part of *Dance Umbrella*, the ICA presents this show of dance photographs in black and white by the American Nathaniel Tilleson. The spectator is involved in the action but there can be no substitute for the actual event itself. (October 6 to October 25)

For collectors

Sue Bond

Casson Gallery: An exhibition of Sheila Mackie's original paintings for the illustrations of *The Great Gatsby* by David Bellamy and Sheila Mackie to coincide with the television series which is adapted from the book. The work of ten painters and woodworkers inspired by landscape or flora and fauna of the countryside will also be on view. (Until October 10, Monday to Friday 10.30 am-1pm, (73 Marylebone High Street, London W1, 487 5080)

Cale Art: Painted figurative porcelain by Kate Wickham inspired by certain themes such as the landscape room in the British Museum: collages incorporating the symbols of summer and detailed pen and ink drawings by Hannah Firmin. (Until October 12, Monday to Saturday 10.30 am-5.30 pm, (17 Cale Street, London, SW3, 352 0764)

Stoke-on-Trent City Museum & Art Gallery: The recent work of seven studio potters who are closely associated with Podmore & Sons Ltd, Shelton, including David Leach, Michael Casson, Janet Hamer, Frank Hamer, John Pollex and Derek Enns. All items are for sale. (Until October 31, Monday to Saturday 10.30 am-5pm, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Staffordshire, 0782 29611)

Whitox Gallery: Gouaches glowing with rich colours by Jane O'Malley are exhibited alongside small boxes in mixed metals by Cornelius Van Dop and ceramics by Stephen Humm of the White Horse Pottery. (October 3 to 30, Monday to Saturday 10.30 am-5pm, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Staffordshire, 0782 29611)

Fairs

Mel Lewis

Exeter Hall, Kidlington, near Oxford: Oxford traffic streaming north — Kidlington is three miles away — is good news for this fair: on average 800 people pass through the doors of the hall for each of five events a year. Forty-two approaches to the fair (the headline either will be showing lace and linen, books, Victorian clothes, iron, stamps, porcelain, coins, Deco, and a small amount of furniture. Light food, licensed bar. Tomorrow, 10.30 am-4 pm. Admission 10p, accompanied children free (part of proceeds going to kidney research).

Bligh's Hotel, High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent: The hotel, easily found opposite Tesco, provides the hall; the council provides a large car park near-by. The hall offers about 40 years in old prices, jewelry, silver, linen and lace, clocks. Refreshments in the hall or, for something stiffer, there's the hotel bar. Tomorrow, 10.30-4 pm. Admission 20p, accompanied children up to 14 free (part of gate goes to Animal Aid of Tonbridge).

Hickstead Antiques Drive-in: Anything could happen on Sunday at this outdoor car-movie, with an estimated 150 dealers turning up if it's fine, half that if it pours. Sell from your car/van/lorry for £10 a pitch (phone 0439 254 254). The site is the Hickstead showjumping ground on the A23, 10 miles north of Brighton.

Sport

Nicholas Keith

Cycle-cross
The Halfords and National Trophy series begins on Sunday, in Woodbank Park, Stockport, at 2 pm. Chris Wrehitt, the British champion, is returning from his training base in Belgium and will lead his title against riders from Belgium and France as well as other leading Britons.

Golf
The World matchplay tournament at Wentworth, sponsored by Santoro, has produced two fine contests for the first day, October 8. Hale Irwin plays Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo is drawn against Ben Crenshaw. Greg Norman, the holder Bill Rogers, the British Open champion, Bernhard Langer and David Graham have byes into the second round. The other players in this select 12-man event are Raymond Barnes, who meets Brian Barnes; Gary Player, whose opponent is Lolo Aoki. The final is on October 11. The county finals are at Ferndown, near Bournemouth, tomorrow and on Sunday.

Racing

After the Newmarket meeting is over tomorrow the main attraction will be Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at the Bois de Boulogne, Paris. The most valuable race for thoroughbreds in Europe has two other group one races in support — that is races which are regarded as championship events in the international racing calendar.

Football

Tomorrow Ipswich, the first division leaders, visit Southampton, whose recent games have produced a stream of goals. At Old

Trafford, Swansea, a surprise package in the first division, will provide a contrast with Manchester United, a collection of million-pound men desperately seeking to produce a dividend on the club's huge investment. On October 6 and 7, the League Cup enters the second round. The pick of these first leg ties is on Wednesday between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United at White Hart Lane.

Ice Hockey

The new English League this weekend brings rivalry between north and south into sharp focus. After the collapse of the British League in 1950, the south went into hibernation until the formation of the Southern League in 1970 but have always been poor relations to the north and Scotland. Nottingham Panthers have created great local interest and tomorrow entertain Durham Wasps, a strong north-east team. Ayrton Graham has byes into the second round. The other players in this select 12-man event are Raymond Barnes, who meets Brian Barnes; Gary Player, whose opponent is Lolo Aoki. The final is on October 11. The county finals are at Ferndown, near Bournemouth, tomorrow and on Sunday.

Rugby League

The Yorkshire Cup final between Bradford Northern and Castleford is at Headingley tomorrow (kick-off 2.15). On Sunday Fulham play York in a first division match at Craven Cottage.

Rugby Union

The Scottish leagues get under way tomorrow with Gala, the national and border champions, at home to Jedforest. In England there will be great interest in the Midlands derby between Coventry and Leicester, and Cambridge University stages the traditional Pavlov-Town fixture.

Family outings

Judy Froshaug

Horse of the Year Show The Gaiety performance on the opening night is the Schroeder Life Jockeys and Jumpers Relay where top showjumpers and jockeys (including Walter Swinburne and Bob Champion) compete; the Budin's Championships follow. On Tuesday the main draught event takes place, the final of the Hoochist Foxhunter Championship and the individual Police Horse of the Year competition. Wednesday is Children's Day with Pony Showing and the team Police Horse of the Year. On Thursday the leading showjumper of the year and the pousseur events take place in the evening. At both manes and evening performances there will be given of heavy horses pony club games, road safety, and the Horse in the Great War complete with the King's Troop, old vehicles and horse-drawn ambulances. (Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex. October 5 to 10 at 2pm and 7pm daily. Information: 235 6431)

National Tramway Museum

As transport trams and tramways, Blackpool apart, are things of the past. However a visit to this museum, housed in a large disused quarry, will bring back memories and give the children a chance to ride on a tram. There are about 40 trams here from Britain and overseas dating from 1873-1953, a dozen of them in working order. Though most are electric, there are also examples of horse-drawn and steam-powered vehicles. In the depots there are two exhibitions which depict the history of the tram and horse-drawn vehicles. The tram rides are over a mile track, last about 20 minutes and are free. There is a cafeteria, free parking. (Matlock Road

Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire. Weekends and bank holidays October 31, from 10.30am-5pm. Admission: £1.30. Children 70p. Information: 0773 852565)

H.M.S. Belfast: 12,000-ton gun cruiser was launched in 1933, and had an amazing war history. In spite of breaking her back on a mine in the North Sea shortly after she was launched, she was back in action for two years later in the Arctic convoys and was engaged in the sinking of the Scharnhorst. She was present at the Normandy landings, fought on to the Middle East and Korea and served for nearly 20 years after the war. Now she is run as a museum ship. You will need at least two hours to look her over fully. The best way to approach her, if you have time, is by the Belfast Ferry from Tower Pier which leaves every 15 minutes or so. Or there is access from the wharf. (Symons Wharf, Vine Lane, Dudley Street, London, SE1. Open daily from 11am-4.30pm. Admission: £1.80, children 90p. Information: 407 6434)

Pearly Harvest Festival: The pearls celebrated their first harvest festival in 1927 in the East End, at St Mary Magdalene's, Messenger Street: kings and queens came with ponies, donkeys and carts and gifts for the poor in hospital. Since the old church was destroyed 25 years ago their service has been held in St Martin's.

There are some 28 pearly families left. Though few of them now live in the East End they all come to London for this service where, as one of the senior pearly queens explained, "We all sing the good old harvest songs and everyone is welcome". Take the children — for the service and the chance to see a piece of London history. The St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2. October 4 to 3pm; get there earlier for a seat. Information 435 9807.

Books

Philip Howard

The Faber Book of Useful Verse, edited by Simon Brett (Faber, £6.95, £2.95). Groucho Marx once said that all poetry was useless, except for the six-line verse beginning "Thirty days hath September". This cheerful little trawl through the shallows and backwaters of literature attempts to prove otherwise, with sections devoted to such subjects as Useful for Cooks, Lovers (Male), Lovers (Female), Aspiring Poets, and so on. Anon. makes numerous sage contributions, including this couplet. Useful for ALL Occasions: When in danger or in doubt, / Ribs in double, / scream and shout."

Kate Greenaway, by Rodney Egan (Macdonald, £14.95). We think of Kate Greenaway as the artist of improbably coy and saucy Victorian children in golden curls and old-fashioned clothes. This biography takes the lid off her turbulent but uncommensurate romance with Ruskin. Those soppy children are a better memorial than her emotional torment.

Video

Nicholas Wapshott

Releases

A Year of the Quorn: A charming year in the life of the Leicestershire, taking in everything from the point-to-point to the terrier show. A little history and a lot of fun. (BBC Video VHS/BET £6 £27.49)

Goshawk: A dramatization of T. H. White's book about the falconer and his attempts to tame the bird. Duncan Carr plays the part of the falconer, who must stay up three days and nights until the falcon trusts him enough to fall asleep. There are moments of fascination, tempered by the general starchy approach. David Cobham directed from a screenplay by Anthony Short. (BBC Video VHS/BET £6 £27.49)

Mr Smith's Vegetable Garden: Meant as a reference work as well as an entertainment for those who would prefer to see someone else gardening. The Yorkshireman Geoffrey Smith's approach is highly practical. This is adapted from his television series and seems to emphasize the practicality of Smith's neatness in order to please other gardeners. Although pooh-poohing hard and fast rules in text books, he is quick to lay them down himself. (BBCV 1000, £37.95) Also available, *Mr Smith's Flower Garden* (BBCV 1001, £37.95) and *Mr Smith's Indoor Garden* (BBCV 1002, £37.95).

Radio

David Wade

Today
Are the Reports of Darwin's Death Exaggerated? The intriguing title refers obliquely to the present controversies surrounding Darwinism — in the light of which the great man seems very much alive. Peter France, one of our more reflective broadcasters, inquires whether a new theory of evolution is in the making. (Radio 4, long wave only, 11.05-11.50 am)

Tomorrow
Leave it to Psmith: Not only is today the beginning of BBC Radio's grand autumn season, it also marks the opening of some modest celebrations to mark the centenary of P. G. Wodehouse. Tonight's case is suitably celebratory. Sir John Gielgud plays Wodehouse, the narrator, Michael Borden is Lord Emsworth, Simon Ward the eponymous Psmith. Joan Greenwood and Caroline Langrish are the leading ladies. (Radio 4, 8.00-10.00, repeating Monday at 3.02-5pm)

Fighting Talk: Balance, we are assured, is to go by the hand at the game of casting against type; let us not forget John Cleese's words. (Radio 4, 10.15-11.00)

Sunday

Gulliver's Travels: Michael Bakewell, co-adaptor of *The Lord of the Rings*, now turns to Swift's classic. Frank Findlay plays Gulliver and the cast over the four parts includes Spike Milligan.

Robert Stephens, Norman Rodway, Peter Woodroffe and suggestive of some curious noises to come — Percy Edwards. (Radio 3 7.25-9.00 pm and the following three Sundays at slightly different times)

Television

Peter Davall

Today

Prisoners of Conscience: This will shock, upset and depress you unless you can succeed in constantly convincing yourself that what you're looking at is only a simulation. It's the first in a new series of dramatized documentaries about the abuse of human rights and the sickening way the victims have suffered, and it's about William Beausire, tortured by the post-Allende military

Films on TV

David Robinson

Tomorrow

A Star is Born (1937): This time Janet Gaynor is teamed with Fredric March, both giving wonderfully sassy performances in the Dorothy Parker-Alan Campbell-Robert Carson script. It was really the second version of the story, which began as *What Price Hollywood?* (1932), also directed by William Wellman. The rich supporting cast includes Adolphe Menjou, Lionel Stander and Andy Devine. (BBC 2, 3.55-4.55pm)

Julia (1977): Campbell and Parker, the *Star is Born* writers, turn up as characters (played by Hal Holbrook and Rosemary Murphy) in Fred Zinnemann's solidly respectable adaptation of passages from Lillian Hellman's novel. Jane Fonda as the young Hellman and Vanessa Redgrave as her childhood friend, now involved in anti-Nazi resistance in Europe, are fine; and Meryl Streep can be glimpsed in a supporting role. (ITV, 9.15-11.25 pm)

The Producers (1967): Mel Brooks's first film, a model of exuberant comedy, lamented Zero Mostel as a low-down Broadway producer who seduces rich and undiscriminating old ladies to raise money for his musical chef d'oeuvre. *Springtime for Hitler*. (BBC 2, 11.20pm-12.55am)

Sunday

The War Lord (1965): Charlton Heston, Richard Boone and Maurice Evans play in this quite taking medieval fantasy-melodrama written by John Collier and Michael Mann and directed quite dashing by Franklin Schaffner. (BBC 1, 7.15-9.10 pm)

Thursday

Jaws (1975): ITV's catch-of-the-week film that started off the whole monster cycle. Looking back now, you feel Steven Spielberg's film had the good fortune to appear at the right moment to satisfy a craving for a new sensation; but the suspense element still works. (Thursday, ITV 7.30-9.45pm)

Friday

Accidental death of an anarchist (1975): A film that started off the whole monster cycle. Looking back now, you feel Steven Spielberg's film had the good fortune to appear at the right moment to satisfy a craving for a new sensation; but the suspense element still works. (Thursday, ITV 7.30-9.45pm)

Saturday

Richard Briers
Peter Egan
IN BERNARD SHAW'S COMEDY
ARMS AND THE MAN
REDUCED PRICE PREVIEW FROM OCTOBER 7th FIRST NIGHT OCTOBER 15th
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"a huge success"
New Show July 1981
LAST 4 WEEKS

GLOBE THEATRE

FROM OCT 5th

Umbrella for the climate

Britain's third Dance Umbrella season opens on Thursday. During the next six weeks it will offer an almost non-stop series of performances, classes and workshops in London, together with performances in a dozen other English, Scottish and Welsh towns.

The idea of a Dance Umbrella was invented in New York as a way of allowing several small companies to benefit from shared overheads. The first British season, modelled on the American example, was held three years ago; there was another roughly halfway between then and now. At each repetition, the enterprise has grown more ambitious.

No fewer than 34 companies, ad hoc groups or solo performers will take part this time, offering new or recent works by at least twice that number of choreographers. Anyone wanting to see it all would have to give up most other activities for the duration, and allow time for recovery afterwards.

Among the performers, it is only to be expected that those invited from overseas should attract most attention. The American contingent this time is chosen from the new wave of young choreographers. Karole Armitage has danced here before as a member of Merce Cunningham's company, but we have not seen her own creations, which are described as a fusion of punk rock and contemporary classicism.

Others are entirely new to us, including Charles Moulton, who has recruited and trained a team of British volunteers for precision ball passing as part of one of his dances, and Melissa Fenley, who recently inspired the respected dance critic of *The New York Times* to exclaim: "We have seen the dance of the future and it works."

American performers have dominated the previous Umbrella seasons, and probably will again this year. This time, however, the net has been cast more widely to find groups to invite from overseas. Companies from Montreal, Paris, Rotterdam and Stockholm are coming, and also performers who, although now living in the United States, started their careers in Tokyo and are said to retain Japanese elements in their work.

All the same, the chief aim of Dance Umbrella is to allow as many as possible of the smaller British companies and younger British choreographers to be seen in London, well presented on good stages. That is why the



American accolade winner Melissa Fenley: Taking dance successfully into the future

Arts Council supports the season, regarding the imported groups chiefly as a yardstick for measuring local achievement.

This is not the sort of occasion when a critic can act as a tipster, advising in advance which nights are likely to be most rewarding. Judging from previous Umbrella seasons, there should be one or two nights when the choreography or the dancing (and, if we are lucky, both) will be excitingly good. Unfortunately there are almost bound to be some presentations which are embarrassingly awful. With the bulk of the season, the interest will lie chiefly in seeing how different creators and performers meet the challenge of trying to do something new and interesting, and judging how far they succeed.

John Percival

Dance Umbrella's October programme is as follows:

Brighton, Gardner Centre: Charles Moulton and Company (October 26 to 28), Karole Armitage and Company (October 29 to 31), (0273 685867)
Bristol, Arrol-Johns: Maude Dupres (October 8-9), Caroline Marcade and Dominique Petit (October 14 and 15), Charles Moulton and Company (October 22, 23), Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (October 23, 30), (0272 399194)
Glasgow, Third Eye Centre: Caroline Marcade and Dominique Petit (October 9, 10), Maude Dupres (October 14, 15),

Charles Moulton and Company (October 16, 17), (0432 75314)
Liverpool, Everyman Theatre: Le Groupe de la Place Royale (October 19 to 21), Karole Armitage and Company (October 23, 24), (051 709 4776)

London, ICA: Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (October 20 to 22), Junko Nishitani (October 23), Ian Spink (October 24, 25), Rosemary Butler Dance Company (October 27, 28), Melissa Fenley (October 29 to 31), Laurie Booth (October 30, 31), (930 0493)

London, The Place: Jane Dudley (October 8 to 10), New Choreographers Scheme award winners (October 11), Inge Lomroth and Dancers (October 12, 14), Tom Jobe (October 23 to 25), Ruth Barnes (October 25), (387 0031)
London, Riverside Studios: Charles Moulton and Company (October 13, 14), Anthony Van Laast (October 15), Caroline Marcade and Dominique Petit (October 16 to 18), Dance Theatre London (October 19), Karole Armitage and Company (October 20, 21), Nin Dene Company (October 21), Maude Dupres (October 22, 23), Le Groupe de la Place Royale (October 23 to 25), Emma Dance Company (October 27, 28), Cycles Dance Company (October 28, 29), Manius Dance Company (October 30, 31), Dancework (October 30, 31), (748 3354)

North West: Karole Armitage and Rhys Chatham (Albany Studio, Crewe, October 12), Le Groupe de la Place Royale (RNCM, Manchester, October 13 to 17), Charles Moulton and Company (RNCM, Manchester, October 19, 20), (Information: 061 236 7076)

Norwich, The Premises: Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (October 24, 25), Melissa Fenley (October 25), (0603 60352)

Northingham, Midland Group Gallery: Karole Armitage and Rhys Chatham (October 9, 10), (0602 582636)

Peterborough and Oundle, Szath Theatre and Walton School: Maude Dupres (October 20 and 21), Janet Smith and Dancers (October 22 to 24), (0753 68931 ext 318)

This shabby conspiracy against Europe



Controversial figures in Iran's 'provisional government': Bani-Sadr (left) and Masud Rajavi

Exiles in the power game

Since the fall of the Shah in 1979 the suburbs of Paris have become a home for numerous Iranian exile groups whose opposition to Ayatollah Khomeini is equalled only by the zeal with which they denigrate one another. Edward Mortimer went to France to talk to the rivals for power.

The announcement of a "provisional government" of the Democratic Islamic Republic of Iran, issued this week in France by the leader of the left-wing Muslim guerrilla movement, the People's Mujahideen, is more significant for what it does not say than for what it does.

The statement gives no names except those of its author, the head of the "government", Masud Rajavi, and of the man who nominated him, exiled president Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. The programme of the government is said to have been approved by "all members of the National Council of Resistance"—a body whose formation was announced by Rajavi and Bani-Sadr when they arrived in France last July. It would appear that the government is probably no more than the Council under a new name. But that is little help, since the membership of the Council, too, remains secret.

Whatever the announcement's purpose, it clearly does not mark the formation of the united front of Khomeini's opponents which many Iranians had been hoping for. Otherwise the names of some of the well-known opposition figures now in exile, such as Hassan Nazhi, who was head of the Iranian National Oil Company for eight months after the revolution, or Admiral Madani, who was a presidential candidate against Mr Bani-Sadr in January 1980, would surely have been included.

Both these men have been in Paris for the last week or two and have been negotiating, directly or indirectly, with Mr Rajavi for the formation of such a united front.

The biggest obstacle to the formation of a united front is the conviction of every leader involved that he alone has been proved right by the tumultuous course of Iran's revolution and that therefore he is the natural centre round which the others should unite. Surviving members of the Shah's family hold that the chaos and bloodshed of the revolution have vindicated the monarchist cause and that the great majority of Iranians are now monarchists at heart.

Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the liberal to whom the Shah handed over the government a few days before leaving the country, blames the Shah for doing so too late, at a point when popular feeling was already too far aroused for a constitutional solution to succeed; but blames even more bitterly those secular or liberal politicians who "had the stupidity" to collaborate with Khomeini's Islamic Republic. He would, he says generously, be prepared to accept the support of those, such as Mr Nazhi, who were not personally responsible for any of the crimes of the Khomeini regime, but only if they were prepared to admit their past mistakes and accept his leadership.

Mr Nazhi, a former head of the Iranian Bar Association who is popular especially in his native Azerbaijan, admits that he did not at first "think Khomeini would go as far as he has done", but none the less claims to have been the first to criticize him from within the ranks of the revolution and to warn that he was "going to divert the revolution from its real path".

The Labour Party conference yesterday followed the TUC in voting that a future Labour government should take Britain out of the European Community without a referendum.

Little consideration will be given to the facts. Forty-five per cent of British trade is with the Community and now gives us a small surplus. Many international firms have set up plants in Britain because we offer access to the whole community market of more than 250 million people, most of them prosperous.

Withdrawal could bring about the collapse of the British economy and a massive rise in unemployment unless a favourable alternative trading arrangement was agreed with our erstwhile partners. Such an arrangement is improbable. Even the West German Social Democrats would be little disposed to make concessions to an insular, chauvinistic and extremist Labour government. A trading arrangement of the kind between the EEC and Norway is inconceivable.

It is worth asking why the triumph of anti-Europeans in the Labour Party oppose a second referendum. After all, they pay considerable lip-service to what they call democracy. Before the 1975 referendum, leading anti-market forces promised to be bound by the decision of the British people. Yet, only six years later, that decisive historic choice is ignored.

The truth is that the anti-Europeans fear the might of the European Community is not popular. Many Britons hold it responsible for high food prices, high unemployment, irritating regulations, cheap imports and food mountains. But a new referendum would involve a national campaign in which many of these opinions would be closely examined and would prove to

be either illusory or exaggerated. The leap in energy prices has been a far more important factor in higher food prices than the common agricultural policy, ill-conceived though that policy is. One cause of unemployment is Britain's declining competitiveness against cheap consumer imports, but nowadays the imports that compete against British products are more likely to be Japanese than German, Taiwanese than Dutch. The present Government's monetarist policies bear a much greater responsibility for disappearing jobs than competition from the Community. As the facts about Britain's economic interdependence with the other Community countries became understood, the British people, in a referendum, would almost certainly refuse to choose withdrawal. However, in a general election campaign, the Community would be only one of many issues, and the Labour party hopes to bury a decision on withdrawal in a flood of popular anger about unemployment and inflation. The Community would come in handy as the butt of nationalist abuse, but there would be no danger of a detailed examination of this crucial issue.

The referendum's victors must blame themselves at least in part for the recrudescence of the anti-Community campaign. Since the referendum result in May 1975 little effort has been made to explain what the Community is doing. Criticism of the EEC, some of it grossly unjust, goes unanswered. The present Cabinet and a majority of the last Labour one were and are in favour of continued British membership, though individual enthusiasm varies and is not marked in either Mrs Thatcher or Mr Callaghan. Neither government, however, has attempted to commend the Community to

public opinion. Any action by the Community that might be popular, such as helping to pay for regional development, promoting employment and training schemes, or supplementary pensions for steelworkers, is hardly ever publicized. At the heart of the relationship between the Community and each member state is *solidarity*, the local concept that whatever the Community budget finances must be in addition to what would be provided anyway by the member country. It is an obvious safeguard, but extraordinarily difficult to put into practice. Britain, for instance, has often argued that the Community contribution is additional because it offsets expenditure cuts



by Shirley Williams

the Government would otherwise have made; but the Community's contribution then becomes entirely invisible to the British public. Grants for industry from the Regional Development Fund vanish into the Treasury. Grants for infrastructure are offset by an equivalent cut in permitted expenditure ceilings.

But if this democracy of interest that would otherwise fall to be paid on borrowing if no grants were made.

Ninety-five per cent of the European Social Fund's contribution to Britain—£131m in 1979—goes to the Manpower Services Commission, but this contribution is not linked with particular pro-

jects. It is swallowed up in the larger total, saving the Treasury money.

Additionally, it is closely bound up with public expenditure constraints. The European Investment Fund has been an important source of funds for job creation in France. In Britain, EIB loans fell in 1980 compared to 1979, despite the rise in unemployment, because of Treasury limits on public expenditure which embrace capital investment as well as current expenditure.

Proposals to expand the social and regional funds (of which Britain is a net beneficiary) as a way to provide a more balanced European budget have been opposed by the British Government on the grounds that public expenditure would increase. A striking instance of the way large sums of money from the Community are swallowed up by the Treasury is the fate of the £645m refunded to Britain in 1980/81 as a result of the Luxembourg agreement of May 30, 1980. Of this total £434m was intended for "special measures" in fact the whole sum was used to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement. "The refunds do not open the way to increases in domestic expenditure programmes beyond those already planned", Mr Nigel Lawson told the House of Commons on March 25. The British public therefore sees no benefit at all from the Community's gesture.

Treasury ministers take a similar view about Northern Ireland, despite the desperate plight of the province's economy. Of the £141m contributed to Northern Ireland from the Regional Development Fund since Britain joined the Community in 1973, £83m has been kept by the Treasury in London to offset existing or planned expenditure.

The contrast with the Irish Republic is marked. Any

interested visitor to the Republic finds a remarkable range of employment, training and educational projects, many of them highly innovative, financed equally by the European Social or Regional funds and by the Irish government. These schemes are widely publicized as being Community-funded, and ministers frequently acknowledged Community help.

Irish secondary school-children run their own mini-companies marketing the produce and drawing up accounts, under the EEC-financed Spiral curriculum project. The disadvantaged children of inner-city Dublin are helped by neighbourly based training programmes and workshops. Gypsy children are taught by mobile education units. Would-be small entrepreneurs are invited to introductory courses, and are then backed up with financial aid, advice on accounting and marketing, and displays of new products or alternatives to imports which they might make.

Such schemes and many more are not only assisted by the Community financially; Regional and Social Fund officials have frequent talks with their Irish opposite numbers and stimulate activities that would not otherwise have occurred.

These facts are rarely aired in Parliament. It suits both the big parties to keep quiet about them. The Government does not want to put up the extra money involved in financing its share of new projects. Labour will say nothing that might rebound to the Community's credit, not even if it would benefit the unemployed, the poor or the disadvantaged.

It is a shabby conspiracy which has helped to damage the Community's standing in the eyes of the public. But that is exactly what the anti-Europeans intend.

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David Watt

A truce in the blunderbuss war

A ferocious debate in the Labour Party is almost certain to continue—exposing the corruption of the system, the cynical ambitions of many of the actors, the powerlessness of the traditional power centres and the hypocrisy of both sides

leaders are terrified that the left will undermine their power base and that the right will doublecross them with an incomes policy as soon as they get back to office.

In this situation it is fairly futile to suppose that anything more than a temporary truce can be declared on the terms offered by Mr Foot in his conference speech. The TUC's notion appeared, in effect, to be that the warring factions should rally round his own position. This implies a deal whereby the right would accept the broad left-wing outline of the NEC's policy documents, including the three principles (give or take a bit of shading on the "unilateral" part of the disarmament proposal) in return for the left's abandoning its constitutional vendetta against MPs.

For the time being Mr Healey has apparently accepted this suggestion—at least this seems a reasonable interpretation of his extraordinary speech in the economic debate last night. One problem for both sides at the moment is that the only weapons available are ancient blunderbusses with an uncertain aim and a nasty tendency to blow up in one's face. The deputy leader-

ship election illustrated this perfectly. Mr Hesley von thanks to votes that the leaders of the Public Employees' Union had specially bought to give to Mr Benn. On the other hand the TGWU delegation nearly undid him by adopting the elitist attitude towards their membership that he regards MPs as being entitled to adopt towards their constituency supporters.

Nobody knows who would benefit most if these old fiddles were abandoned in favour of more modern democratic engines of war. Mr Benn's cohorts appear to believe that his campaign for "party democracy" ought, if successful, to sweep him on to victory. But it is clear that a system which puts MPs in the power of the NEC, and the conference in the hands of the constituency party activists and union militants, gives the left a satisfactory stronghold. But if this democracy is carried too far—if for instance the union block vote were abolished or primary elections instituted for the choice of parliamentary candidates—then the natural conservatism of the Labour rank and file would reassert itself and the whole Bennite edifice would crumble.

The right faces a similar dilemma. In theory, the more democracy, the better it is for them; and there is a strong school of thought in the Solidarity group which would like to go for mandatory consultation in the unions, one-man-one-vote, and all the rest of it. The snag is that quite apart from having to accept a degree of populism that goes against

the ingrained instincts of many MPs, a move in this direction would alienate many friendly union leaders who are petrified by the thought of democratic innovation. The Labour right has always relied heavily on getting the fix in—until, recently, it has turned against them. Now that the composition of the NEC gives them the whip hand, they may risk change in the long run perhaps, but democracy might work out nicely, but if, in the dangerous transition period, the left seizes power and freezes the process at exactly the wrong point, the right is lost.

This argument will doubtless be settled in the end by changes in the unions themselves. The scandal of the TGWU and NUPE votes, this week has not gone unnoticed by the union rank and file. Many unionists are already asking (a) whether they are getting value for money from their union dues and (b) whether their affiliation to the Labour Party is not now as much a liability as an asset. Clearly a system which puts MPs in the power of the NEC, and the conference in the hands of the constituency party activists and union militants, gives the left a satisfactory stronghold. But if this democracy is carried too far—if for instance the union block vote were abolished or primary elections instituted for the choice of parliamentary candidates—then the natural conservatism of the Labour rank and file would reassert itself and the whole Bennite edifice would crumble.

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A new man in the Express hot seat

The succession of editors at the faltering Daily Express continued yesterday with the removal of Arthur Firth after only a year in the hot seat. Firth, 53, goes to an as-yet unspecified senior editorial position with the Express group, to be replaced by the youthful Chris Ward, assistant editor of the Daily Mirror.

Ward is probably best known for his 10 years as a columnist on the Mirror. He said yesterday that he is "going to make the Express a great newspaper again"—a similar ambition to that of his predecessor, and discouraged recent suggestions of a merger between his new organ and the Daily Mail.

Ward, 39, started his career at the age of 16 on the weekly Driffield Times in Yorkshire before going to the Evening Chronicle in Newcastle. He has always wanted to join the Express, where his father worked before the war.

A prophetic comment before news leaked out was made in the Mirror yesterday. Lord Matthews, the Express Group chairman, was quoted as saying: "It (the Express) wants brightening a little bit; needs to be a little sharper with good writing and good humour. We're all looking for the magic aren't we?"

High fliers

For those of us who thought our khaki-clad chaps in the British Army of the Rhine were there to protect western Europe from the Russian Bear, I have news. Unclassi-

fied information has just come my way suggesting that their real quarry is a species of bird known colloquially as the Sooty Falcon. An expedition of Royal Highland Fusiliers and a small party of scientists are, even now, preparing to scour the highest reaches of a remote Red Sea mountain area in Egypt for a glimpse of the rare predator. I just hope that our pilots of staff know what they are doing.

All the world

Among the many proposals Old Vic administrator Andrew Leigh will have to sift through before making recommendations about future occupancy of the deserted theatre is an intriguing suggestion that it become the home of a new multi-racial theatre company.

Veteran Indian-born actor-director Madhav Sharma has formed Actors Unlimited in a Peter Brook-style attempt to put different theatrical "tribes" feeding off one another. The company, which includes such well-known figures as David Yip, star of television's "Chinese Take Away" presented its first play, David Edgar's *Our Own People*, at the Upstream Theatre Club earlier this week. It will appear at the Asian Festival 1981 at the Commonwealth Institute next Thursday.

However, Sharma has greater ambitions for the fledgling company. A former member of the executive of Equity, he has obtained a £5,000 donation from the actors' union towards the formation. He now hopes the company will win a three-year lease on the Old Vic, where he would present drama, with a strong emphasis on "under-represented Chinese and Indo-Pakistani traditions", and train

THE TIMES DIARY



Dr Stefan Marinov, the Bulgarian dissident scientist who claims to have proved Einstein's theory of relativity, has gone one better.

He now claims to have achieved the alchemists' dream of discovering an easy and sure way of getting rich. Marinov has revealed his method in a full-page advertisement in the scientific journal Nature. It is simply to write letters, sealed with red wax, to the Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, who was to have been patron of an international scientific conference organized by Marinov in 1977. Twenty days before the conference was to start the Bulgarians committed Marinov to a psychiatric clinic and sent telegrams to intending participants explaining

young non-whites for the theatre. He says that such a venture would coincide with the populist wishes of the Old Vic founder, Lilian Baylis, who presented her first Shakespeare production at the former Royal Victoria Hall and Coffee Tavern in 1914.

Skirting the issue

Furious protests by female socialists at the start of the Labour Party conference against chairman Alex Kilson appear to have paid off. Kilson, who judiciously referred to them as "tea makers", now sports a

badge which says Labour Women Make Policy.

More importantly, delegates have noticed that the humorous Scot, now at loggerheads with MPs who claim he ignores their appeals for a place at the rostrum, has developed a special eye for the ladies. Though a mere 14 per cent of the delegates are women, about 20 per cent of the speakers are female.

This has led to some amusement in the conference hall. Choosing a new speaker, Kilson pointed to the middle of the gathered throng and declared: "That wee girl there." But before the young woman could arrive at the rostrum a large man in a grey suit had captured the

microphone. "Hey!", said the chairman. "Ah didn't see ye had a skirr on." The man retreated quickly.

Gucci glitter

A scurrilous rumour that Gucci is going down-market was quickly dispelled on Wednesday night when the Old Bond Street boutique hosted a reception at the Hyde Park Barracks, home of the Household Cavalry. The champagne party, attended by Princess Michael of Kent, was to celebrate the centenary of the birth of its founder, Guccio Gucci, who originally opened a modest saddlery in Florence and gave his initials to the famous Gucci monogram of today. It was also to raise money for the British International Equestrian Fund.

The highlight of a glittering evening for 350 revellers was the auction of a saddle especially commissioned by Gucci, which arrived on horseback to a fanfare by members from the Blues and Royals, and went for £700.

The scurrilous rumour? Iwan Williams, general manager of the London boutique, quite properly declined to speculate on what a recent report about a one-off mail-order offer for Gucci handbags might do to the company's image.

Patriotic Parky

My fears that breakfast with Michael Parkinson at the Inn on the Park yesterday would mean plateaus of tripe and onions proved to be groundless. Mercifully Parky treated me to croissants and coffee as he discussed the prospect of his BBC 1 series "competing" with

America's no. 1 chat show host Johnny Carson's programme on London Weekend Television this Saturday.

Outwardly unperturbed by the challenge, Parkinson was nevertheless keen to show that he was not a "foreign" product at a time when so many in our own television industry are looking for work. He admires Carson professionally ("the most quick-witted man I have ever seen") but he does not believe that such an



Parkinson: Is Carson too American for us?

American product will appeal to viewers who are used to his more homely fare. Parkinson went on to discuss less controversial matters such as Yorkshire County Cricket Club in his normal confident manner. Parkinson already has his fingers in more than a few media pies, for example, Australian chat shows, breakfast television and a new publishing house, and now, he tells me,

he wants to buy a pub. No prizes for guessing what mine host has ourite topics of conversation will be.

In camera

For the first time television cameras have been allowed into the normally secret world of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire. A BBC team is putting the finishing touches to a programme which was not without its security problems. So sensitive was the subject that the risk that something highly classified might have been inadvertently recorded by the cameras that they insisted the film be developed not by the BBC but by government technicians.

Humble Bernardo

In an unusual act of humility, Bernardo Bertolucci, director of *Last Tango in Paris* has radically altered his latest film, *The Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man*, which opens in Italy this week. After a lukewarm reception for the film at the Cannes festival in June, Bertolucci acknowledged that in its original form, it was incomprehensible.

So he introduced a voice-off-screen to comment on statements and actions in the film and he altered entire sequences. In the past Bertolucci brushed off criticism of his films as attacks by frustrated reviewers who had simply failed to grasp the touch of genius. Now he is meekly asking the critics to come back and have another look.

Michael Horsnell



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THE LONGEST CORNER

The latest increase in interest rates is the last nail in the coffin of the Chancellor's economic strategy. He made lower interest rates the centre of his Budget and that was sensible, but interest rates are higher now than they were then. Spring will be a little late this year and next year as well for the faint glimmer of a revival of profits, on which one might hope for a rise of investment and employment has been snuffed out. Sir Geoffrey invites scepticism when he suggests at the IMF that Britain is on the right track; but he certainly carries conviction when he says living standards are going to fall for some time ahead. A very high economic and political penalty is being paid for past error and for the continuing reliance on the automatic pilot of monetary aggregates of dubious validity and accuracy.

Britain is not of course entirely a free agent in the matter of interest rates. As we argued when the first rise occurred another was inevitable soon given the Government's present policy and the difficulties for President Reagan in cutting his budget deficit. While that remains high, interest rates in New York will be kept up with consequences for the rest of the world. But the nature of these consequences is far more in the Government's control than it is prepared to admit. Sterling interest rates are being edged up towards the American level to hold up

the pound. Although the Bank of England now says that markets are allowed a greater role in fixing rates, the markets are heavily influenced by what the authorities are trying to achieve. At the moment they believe the Government is trying to prevent any further depreciation of the pound because of the inflationary consequences this would have.

Stable exchange rates are highly desirable. But they have to be the right stable exchange rates. The damage being wrought now to the Chancellor's economic strategy was certain when the Government refused to do anything about the absurdly high level of the pound last year. We were told then about the pound what we are told today about interest rates: that there is nothing anyone can do. It is depressing politics and questionable economics. If we had joined the European Monetary System in 1980 much of the unjustified rise in the pound would have been avoided and with it the unjustified rise in real wages which has now to be clawed back. Sir Geoffrey really must reject the Treasury's briefs for they do not add up to a policy but a series of rationalizations for the lurches from one crisis to the next.

Conservative economic policy should surely be pragmatic, not theoretical, international and not insular, and above all benevolent, not hostile, to private industry. It should create the conditions —

and that is about all it can do — to enable private enterprise to flourish and make its contribution to prices, employment and output. But policy pushes in the opposite direction. Over the past three weeks, as interest rates have risen by four percentage points, the cost of industrial borrowing has gone up by £1,000m. Investment is still ho-ho, our competitive position weakened thereby, and unemployment multiplied. Now does the Chancellor's actions "balance the budget" for a one point rise in interest rates adds £200m a year to the cost of government borrowing in a full year. This means that £200m has been added this year. At the same time every 100,000 extra unemployed adds a further £340m to the cost of public spending. The Chancellor is chasing his tail in ever-decreasing circles.

The Government should cut the cost of borrowing, not raise it. It should let sterling find a new stable level in the European Monetary System; the benefit to British industry outweighs the possible slight inflationary stimulus. It should also give some relief to industry by reducing the National Insurance surcharge which is a tax on exports and jobs. And of course it must press hard on restraining wages and current public spending. Taken together these would do something to shorten the longest corner in the world which the Chancellor keeps telling us we are turning.

TWO UNDERDRESSED EMPERORS

Although the Labour Party has not been wholly swamped by the tide of unilateralism, that tide is now high enough to be regarded as a serious factor in British politics. It has been fed by many different streams, some originating in the early pacifist traditions which have always run through the party, some starting with CND and the protest movements of the 1960s, and some of more recent birth.

The reasons for the new resurgence are not particularly mysterious. The natural moral abhorrence which any sane person must feel at the thought of nuclear weapons being used has increased as the weapons themselves have increased both in numbers and in technical refinements which make their use for limited purposes seem more feasible. No longer do they form a distant background of terror, a somewhat remote threat of total destruction if human affairs get hopelessly out of control. Instead they seem to be all around us as almost usable weapons. Of course this ought to increase their deterrent value by making everyone afraid to start even the most limited conventional skirmish for fear of escalation, but anyone who wishes can see the situation the other way, as making their use more likely.

At the same time two other things have happened. First, the hopes that were pinned on arms control throughout the 1970s have been very badly disappointed. Ten years ago it was reasonable to hope that SALT 1 would lead to SALT 2, which would lead to SALT 3 and so on. There was already a partial test ban treaty in force, and a non-proliferation treaty. In Vienna there were talks on reducing conventional forces in Europe. Before long the Helsinki conference was discussing military confidence-building measures and other ways of reducing tension in Europe. It was possible to believe that the two largest power blocks which emerged from the Second World War were slowly bringing their rivalry under sufficient control to reduce the danger of conflagration. Unilateral disarmament was pointless while multilateralism still had a chance.

Meanwhile a new generation has grown up amid the debris of these hopes. It lacks historical perspective, so it tends not to see the United States as the saviour and guarantor of western security but as the stumbling giant of the post-Vietnam era. Nor does it understand the full historical significance and value of America's first peace-time

presence on the continent of Europe. To a large extent it also fails to understand what the east-west confrontation is all about. In this it is to some extent in the position of the child who truly sees that the two emperors have no clothes. The huge accumulations of weaponry which the two brands at each other are wholly out of proportion to any genuine conflict of interests. There is no serious competition for essential resources, or for territory that is truly vital to the security of either, and the ideological fires have dwindled on both sides. In strictly objective terms a reasonable degree of accommodation should be easily attainable. But many conflicts throughout history have been essentially irrational, and it is with this irrationality that we have to deal. The emperors may have no clothes but they are quite capable of destroying each other and everyone around them.

But that is as far as the analogy goes. One emperor is on our side and the other is not. The tendency to regard them both as equal threats is dangerous. The Russians have found it much more difficult than the Americans to limit their military ambitions. The Americans started to disarm after the war. The Russians did not. The Americans cut down their military spending (in real terms) in the 1970s. The Russians increased theirs. The apparently inexorable Russian build-up is a grim fact of life which cannot be wished away.

It may well be true that the Russians are stretched and desperately want to negotiate arms control. It is almost certainly true that they do not intend to attack us directly. It is even legitimate to argue about whether the Russians are really as strong as they seem, bearing in mind the unreliability of their equipment and of their east European allies. But no responsible western government can risk letting the balance of power continue shifting steadily in favour of the Soviet Union. Even if, for the sake of argument, one grants the Soviet Union the most pacific and defensive intentions imaginable this provides no guarantee for the future. Intentions can change, especially when capabilities change, and the Russians now have global capabilities which they never had before.

Some unilateralists realize this very well but argue that it is precisely because the risks of opposing the Russians have increased that we must cease opposing them, or anyway get

Britain out of the line of fire. This is the argument of fear — understandable fear but not the best guide to policy. As part of an alliance we have both protection and influence. Unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain, even with token membership of Nato, would weaken the alliance, and put so much strain on West Germany, that the balance of power in Europe would be seriously upset. This could decrease rather than increase security, even for Britain, and it would certainly deprive Britain of influence over the policies of what was left of the alliance. Nor would the power of example have any influence on the Soviet Union, which has made it clear that it has no interest in unilateral disarmament and is not prepared to abandon eastern Europe.

The best thing to do, therefore, is to go back to the drawing board of arms control and try to do better. It is not a hopeless task. The Russians would like to put some sort of cap on their arms spending, and they are also under pressure to demonstrate their peaceful intentions to world opinion. The Americans also have economic constraints and are under strong pressure from their European allies. Both are now committed to negotiations, although they still differ profoundly over the diagnosis of the problem and its cure.

Europe therefore has an opportunity to play a constructive role by contributing ideas, sustaining pressure on both sides, and perhaps even mediating. The Soviet Union has a strong interest in maintaining political credit in western Europe. Some of its motives are suspect, in that it likes to drive wedges into the Atlantic alliance, but even suspect motives can be made use of by skilful western diplomacy. Europe has its own special interests and its own lines to Washington and Moscow. If it is seen to be using them it could speed progress and also, perhaps, take some of the steam out of the protest movements.

This would, on the whole, be a good thing because although these movements are useful in that they exert some salutary pressures on western governments they also risk persuading Russia that they are strong enough to prevent the deployment of new weapons in the west. If they do that the Russians will spin out the negotiations and the protest groups will turn out to have damaged the cause they espouse.

awarded the first newspaper licence in Lower Saxony.

I might add that I disagree with much else that Dr Wilson states. So have I never attacked the late Federal President Heinrich Lübke on account of his political past. When Lübke worked as an architect he designed huts that were later without his knowledge — unknown to him! — employed for setting up concentration camps. When communists launched the drawings bearing Lübke's signature for propaganda in the West, Lübke incomprehensibly denied the authenticity of his signature.

My objections to Lübke stemmed from that attitude which I could not understand at all and from my conviction that Heinrich Lübke failed to possess the intellectual qualities required for the office of a Federal President. I have never doubted his political integrity.

Yours faithfully,
HENRI NANNEN,
Editor-in-Chief,
STERN Magazine,
Hamburg,
West Germany.
September 17.

Political past

From Herr Henri Nannen

Sir, In the July 31 issue of *The Times* I found a letter to the Editor from Dr Alexander Wilson calling me an "infamous Nazi Youth leader" and "leading Goebbels propagandist".

There is no foundation whatever for such descriptions. I was not even a member of the Nazi Party or any of its affiliates. My political past was checked meticulously by the British occupation authority in 1944 before I was

Recovering North Sea gas riches

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of Shell UK Limited

Sir, While I sympathize with the point in the letter from Sir Henry Jones and others (September 24) on the tax treatment of oil company participation in the gas-gathering pipeline, I believe that the authors misunderstand the consequences of the Government's recent decision to shelve the proposed gas-gathering scheme.

The Government's decision does not mean that gas in the northern oil and gas fields of the North Sea will not be recovered or even that its recovery will be delayed. Assuming that the price paid for North Sea gas reasonably reflects its true energy value, which is in the hands of the British Gas Corporation and the Government, then oil companies will have the incentive to develop schemes for bringing ashore volumes of gas at least as large as those for which the gas-gathering scheme was designed.

It is relevant to point out that Shell and Esso will very shortly complete construction of the world's largest offshore gas-gathering system. This system, known as Flare (Far North liquids and associated gas system), will soon be collecting gas from the Brent, North Cormorant, Ninian and North West Hutton fields, and agreement is now near on proposals to connect the Magnus, Murchison and Thistle fields to the system in a year or so.

Looking ahead, I can see several pipelines similar to Shell/Esso's Flare system being constructed in the future. These systems will be capable of being linked to one another offshore, thereby providing a high degree of reliability, integrity and security for gas supplies from North Sea.

Opencast coal

From Mr R. T. Arguile

Sir, In Paul Routledge's article (September 11) on the possible sale of opencast mines to private enterprise, Mr John Moore is asked as to the NCB's policy of returning to the private sector activities which are better carried out there rather than in the public sector. It is to be hoped that opencast coal mining will be made the exception to the "general rule".

Opencast coal mining has never been wholly in the private sector. Although all its field operations of drilling, production, haulage, preparation and site restoration are carried out entirely by contractors, none carry out the gamut of operations from start to finish since many are specialists in one particular field. But all these varied operations are controlled by the Opencast Executive, who not only gets the sites (itself a very lengthy process) but also calls for tenders for the works to be done; awards contracts and supervises them in such a manner as to maintain a very sound commercial competitive balance between the small, medium and larger contracting firms, so ensuring full employment of the costly plant used and gaining the benefit of competitive tenders.

"Better carried out"? Surely Mr Moore knows that since 1953, a

year after the OE was taken into the Coal Board, it has been in profit every year and that these profits now aggregate to £787m from a total production of 287 million tonnes.

The OE is now the sole major profit-maker of the NCB. Its restoration of worked sites and its reclamation of derelict mining areas has won international recognition and praise. Opencast coal mining as presently carried out is undoubtedly one of the success stories of this half-century despite the threats of closure in the past.

It is a realistic, soundly-based partnership between a small-numbered but dedicated OE staff and the 30 or so contractors, each realising their dependence on the other. If the entire control was passed to the contractors, who then would set, maintain or improve standards? Who would ensure that a "ring" of contractors would not be formed, squeezing out competitors and then able to call the tune?

I repeat: this is one of the few success stories of this nation this half-century. Leave well alone. Let the nation continue to have the benefit of the cheaper coal that this form of mining yields.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. ARGUILE,
12 Edward Road,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.
September 15.

The nuclear balance

From Mr Winston S. Churchill, MP for Stratford (Conservative)

Sir, Monsignor Bruce Kent (September 15) writing on behalf of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, complains that I have omitted France's nuclear missiles as well as British and American submarine-launched missiles from my analysis of the nuclear balance. The USSR has today established "a supremacy over Nato in theatre nuclear weapons systems of 3.5:1".

France is not a member of the military organisation of Nato, nor are her nuclear weapons assigned to the Alliance. If I omitted the United States' 41 nuclear-missile submarines and Britain's four Polaris, it was because I was, by same token excluding the Soviet Union's 87 ballistic-missile submarines, since these are primarily strategic, rather than theatre nuclear systems. Nor did I

include the Soviet Union's 68 cruise-missile submarines, which might be held to be theatre nuclear systems (figures from *Jane's Fighting Ships, 1980/81*).

Why is it that CDN campaigners take such strong exception to Nato systems, to be deployed in Britain for the protection, not of the United States, but of the British people, yet are not prepared to demonstrate with at least equal vigour against the Soviet Embassy against the more than 200 Soviet SS-20 nuclear missiles — equipped with multiple warheads, each of many times the destructive power of a cruise missile — that Mr Brezhnev has targeted against the civilian population of Britain and other Western European countries over the past five years?

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL,
House of Commons,
September 17.

EEC impact on trade

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East (Conservative)

Sir, It is not David Wood (article, September 14) who has got it wrong about the United Kingdom trade picture with our EEC partners, as Teddy Taylor suggested (September 26). It is Teddy Taylor himself who misunderstands the basic patterns and trends. It is misleading to add up all the trade figures for the United Kingdom with the whole world and hail that as a huge surplus; but single out the EEC total as a heinous deficit.

For the reality is that Britain always traditionally enjoys surpluses with the less developed countries of the world, but incurs a deficit regularly with virtually every advanced area of the world.

With the Community the vital thing is that we have built up the volume and value of our trade with the others so substantially. Moreover, even imports bring work and employment to United Kingdom citizens anyway via the distribution and processing industries.

It is also wrong of my colleague to exclude the oil exports coming from our North Sea supplies. Of course they are part of our total trading picture. Why cut out an outstanding British success story, because it does not fit in with a narrow and simplistic view of United Kingdom trading and economic benefits arising from being in the EEC?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES,
House of Commons,
September 26.

Charismatic movement

From Mr W. R. Fittall

Sir, If, as the Reverend Eric Inglesby implies (September 19), the charismatic movement is the entire charismatic renewal to be dangerously subversive "charisma" it seems that part of the Christian Church is slow to learn from the mistakes of others. Had the Roman Catholic Church of the sixteenth century or the Anglican Church of the eighteenth had the discernment and humility to reexamine their own spiritual state in the light of the fresh insights and enthusiasm of Luther and Wesley the Body of Christ would be less disfigured today.

Ironically both churches subsequently experienced much-needed revival but only after their initial hostility had driven the new movements into exile.

I was recently surprised and encouraged to discover a flourishing French Pentecostal Church here in Toulon where over 200 local people gather each Sunday. I could not help reflecting, however, that while sub-Christian sects such as the Mormons, Moonies and Jehovah's Witnesses are rightly kept at arm's length by the historic churches, Christians whose experience and doctrine are so clearly within the mainstream of the faith ought not once again to have found it necessary to set up on their own.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM R. FITTALL,
29 Rue Muscatelli,
Toulon, 83000,
France.
September 21.

Lost initiative on high-speed trains

From Professor P. B. Fellgett

Sir, The report (September 23) from your Tokyo Correspondent on plans for the 300 mph Osaka-Tokyo line and the successful trials of the magnetically levitated prototype train illustrate once again how ideas initiated in this country are allowed to languish here while other countries overtake our development. Both the magnetic support and the linear motor drive to be used for the new Japanese line were developed here, particularly by Professor Laithwaite, of Imperial College, and this country had running a successful high-speed tracked hovertrain.

Such failures to benefit from our own initiatives are often ascribed to some defect in the British character, but the fault in this case, as with the TSR II swing-wing aircraft, lies clearly with the policies and decisions of the government of the day. Moreover, this case illustrates once again the inappropriateness of applying the so-called Rothschild "customer-contractor" principle to research or development involving genuine initiative.

The Government's decision to close the hovertrain development against the advice of a parliamentary select committee, was influenced by application of this misguided principle. The Government looked for a "customer", thought it was British Rail, who of course stated that they were not interested. This was as predictable, and as stultifying of genuine development, as if the Guild of Bowyers and Fletchers had been asked to advise the government of the day on whether the market should be developed.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FELLGETT,
Department of Cybernetics,
The University of Reading,
3 Early Gate,
Whiteknights,
Reading.
September 25.

Canadian Indians

From Dr Victor O'Connell

Sir, When Britain, as colonizer, recognized the Indian Nations of Canada in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, it undertook to protect Indian lands and rights. Subsequently, in more than 20 treaties signed between 1817 and 1929, the Indian Nations and the British Crown and Parliament committed itself politically and legally to institute, with the consent of the Indian Nations, a constitutional process to both interpret and enact aboriginal and treaty rights. The Indian Nations of Saskatchewan have waited patiently for Britain to honour its obligations.

We are proposing to the British Government that before it patriates or amends the Canadian Constitution with or without the consent of the majority of the Provinces, it first discharge its prior responsibility to us by entrenching in Canada a constitutional mechanism which will safeguard our links with the British Crown, protect our rights and provide us with access to the political process in Canada commensurate with our special status in our own homeland. After that we can look after ourselves.

The Canadian Government has not invited us to sit at the constitutional table, nor was the Supreme Court of Canada asked to decide on the legality of Mr Trudeau's proposal vis-à-vis aboriginal and treaty rights. All the more reason that we should rely on our treaty partner, Britain, to exercise its protectorate powers while it still has them.

We are asking the British Government for a royal commission or judicial referral and to advise on the best method by which Britain can discharge its obligations and honour its promises.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR O'CONNELL,
Indian Government of Saskatchewan,
London Office,
Suite 311,
Park Lane Hotel,
Piccadilly, W1.
September 30.

Labour and democracy

From Mr B. Berkoff

Sir, Many of your readers must have taken a sardonic interest in today's report (September 16) that the Labour leadership in the GLC has, through one of its whips, admonished any Labour member who might be considering leaving the party to have the honesty to indicate his or her interest in advance.

It is only a few months since the Labour Party secured a majority on the GLC under the ostensible leadership of Mr McIntosh, but quite evidently with the undisclosed intention of replacing him immediately after the election with Mr Livingstone. Honesty, it seems, is demanded if the Labour leaders in the GLC are in danger of suffering a shock, but it is not necessary when the electors are the intended victim.

Yours faithfully,
B. BERKOFF,
28 Ladbroke Grove, W11.
September 16.

Chemical weapons

From Dr A. Robertson

Sir, Mr Barlow's letter (September 21) refers to "the notorious 245-T defoliant known as 'agent orange', which, as we are too well aware, causes genetic abnormalities of the most grotesque order". His assertion that "we are all too well aware" is not supported by the facts. At Severn the best documented and researched investigation into an incident involving 245-T revealed no increase in the incidence of miscarriages, birth defects or infant deaths, and a recent report of the American Council on Science and Health concluded: "No scientific reports presented to date have shown any convincing relationship between the traditional use of 245-T and adverse health effects in humans."

Unproven assertions such as those made by Mr Barlow can only result in arousing unnecessary public concern.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN ROBERTSON,
Woodlands,
Tennyson's Lane,
Haslemere, Surrey.
September 24.

an average speed of 95 mph. For other runs the average speeds are: London-Doncaster (156 mi) 94mph, London-Darlington (232 mi) 93 mph, London-Newcastle (268 mi) 90 mph.

Being an ardent francophile I do not want to belittle the achievements of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer, but the above figures show there is nothing British Rail needs to be ashamed of.

Yours faithfully,
N. KURTI,
Department of Engineering Science,
University of Oxford,
Parks Road, Oxford.
September 24.

From Mr Yehudi Menuhin
Sir, Over a month ago (July 31) *The Times* printed an excellent article in its Business Section on the virtues and advances in the application of the linear motor to the railways, praising the far-sightedness of the Japanese in this field.

I wrote you a letter (which was politely rejected) not simply because I have long been an advocate of this electro-magnetic form of propulsion, but mainly because of your failure to acknowledge the existence and efforts of England's own prime mover in this very field, Professor E. R. Laithwaite, of Imperial College. You will, I trust, therefore, understand my further annoyance at reading yet again (September 23), this time on your front page, another article even more fulsome in its praise of the latest progress in Japan and France of the "innovative" high-speed train.

Incidentally, I have travelled on the TGV train from Paris to Lyons and, even at reduced speed, I can only testify to the great apprehension of being in so dangerously vulnerable a machine exposed at surface level to every possible hazard, accidental — or the weather — or deliberate (human). No speeds aiming for the sonic and the super-sonic should ever be conceived except within the protection of a vacuum tunnel.

What is this growing English malady of lack of faith in its brilliance and its genius for pure science, acknowledged by every other country except its own?

Yours faithfully,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
15 Pond Square,
Highgate Village, N6.
September 25.

and provide us with access to the political process in Canada commensurate with our special status in our own homeland. After that we can look after ourselves.

The Canadian Government has not invited us to sit at the constitutional table, nor was the Supreme Court of Canada asked to decide on the legality of Mr Trudeau's proposal vis-à-vis aboriginal and treaty rights. All the more reason that we should rely on our treaty partner, Britain, to exercise its protectorate powers while it still has them.

We are asking the British Government for a royal commission or judicial referral and to advise on the best method by which Britain can discharge its obligations and honour its promises.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR O'CONNELL,
Indian Government of Saskatchewan,
London Office,
Suite 311,
Park Lane Hotel,
Piccadilly, W1.
September 30.

Support for literature

From Mr John Elsom

Sir, Miss Marghanita Laski (September 24) suggests that the Liberal Party's Arts Panel has "put the cart before the horse" in seeking to encourage the growth of new bookshops around the country before finding ways of extending a passion for literature. Does this mean that she believes that a passion for literature can be developed before the acquisition of actual books?

Our proposals, for helping specialist bookshops (as opposed to paperback sales in multiple and non-specialist stores) have to be seen in the context of other recommendations; but there is no doubt that we regard the decline in the book-purchasing capacity of public libraries and the dearth of bookshops outside major towns and cities as two important factors which prevent the widespread appreciation of literature.

I do not honestly believe that a government department or even a quango like the Arts Council can "extend the passion for literature". You only have to read their reports to wonder whether they even share. But it is the job of authors, publishers and librarians to encourage the public to read books, for that is how they earn their livings.

Our proposals are accordingly directed towards helping them; and any political party which put forward a policy for supporting literature that ignored those who actually work in the trade would find itself in very difficult territory indeed.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ELSOM,
Vice-Chairman, Liberal Arts Panel,
39 Elsham Road,
Kensington, W14.
September 24.

Plain English?

From Mr Alexander MacLeod

Sir, How ill-informed of Louis Heren to suggest (September 26) that the Garrick is "the most un-English of clubs".

Yours aye,
ALEXANDER MACLEOD,
Caledonian Club,
9 Halkin Street, SW1.



COURT CIRCULAR

Luncheons

Dinners

Service dinners

THE N

Forthcoming

Mr J. Duckett and Miss D. L. Bain
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Group Captain R. Duckett, OBE. RAF (Retd) and Mrs Duckett, of Limeswell, Strealey, Berkshire, and Dagny, daughter of Mr A. W. Bain, of Central Park West, New York, and Mrs B. Preston, of St Michael, Barbados.

Marriages

Mr W. N. Denison and Miss E. A. M. Curnow
The marriage took place quietly in London on September 28, 1981, between Mr William Neil Denison and Miss Elizabeth Ann Marguerite Curnow. A service of blessing was held at St Dunstan's

The Lord Chancellor read the lesson at the annual judges' service held in Westminster Abbey yesterday to mark the opening of the Michaelmas Sittings. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, officiated. The Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division, others of Her Majesty's judges and visiting judges and lawyers from overseas were present.

Reading
The title of emeritus professor has been conferred on the following: Professor Charles W. N. Miles, professor of estate management; subsequently land management; Professor E. Victor Morgan, professor of economics; and Professor Terry Frost, professor of painting.

Promotions

Posthumous award for shot Customs man

Noonery, Road Roller Driver, M H McCarrill Ltd., Blaghopbriggs; Steven William Ferniner, Constable, Nottinghamshire Constabulary; John Ross Shand, Sergeant, Nottinghamshire Constabulary; John Graves, Constable, Metropolitan Police; Richard Edward Tyson, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Lord Chancellor

University news

Reading
The title of emeritus professor has been conferred on the following: Professor Charles W. N. Miles, professor of estate management; subsequently land management; Professor E. Victor Morgan, professor of economics; and Professor Terry Frost, professor of painting.

Promotions
Readers: Dr W J Hardcastle, linguistic science; J C H Davies, sociology; Dr A Gilbert, chemistry.
Lecturer: Dr D L Rowell, soil science.

Church news

Resignations and retirements

The Right Rev Dr E R Wickham, Bishop of Middleton, diocese of Manchester, to retire on January 31, 1982.

The Rev G T Barber, Vicar of

The Rev Canon C Ross, Vicar of Clarendon with Preston Bagot, diocese of Coventry, retired on September 18.

The Rev D Ross, Assistant Curate, Barton-on-Humber, diocese of Lincoln, retired on September 30.

The Rev G M Spinnery, Rector of The Derwelle, diocese of Salisbury,

Moreover... Miles Kington

Y IN OCT

OBER

25 years ago
From The Times of Monday,

SIR STANLEY DAVIDSON

the sometimes flippant exterior lay serious purpose and a capacity for sustained labour. Similarly his easy

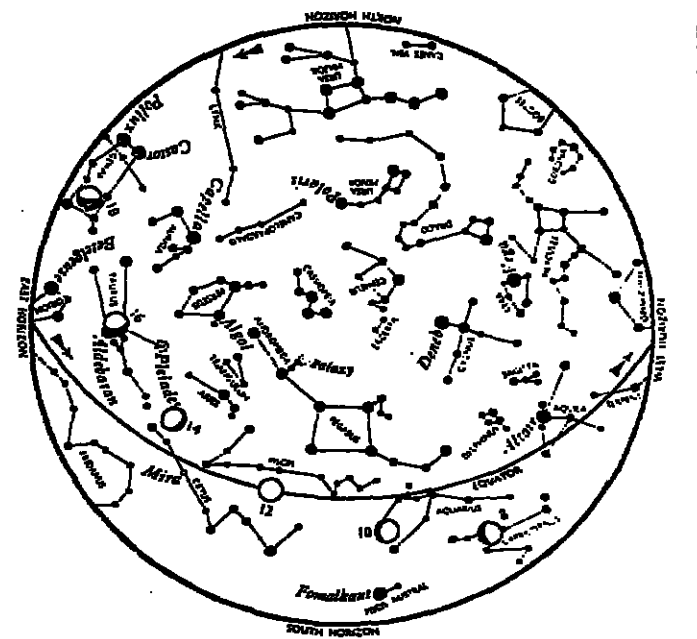
**President of the Association
of Physicians of Great Britain
and Ireland in 1953.**
Over a period of years

natural gifts with rod and gun, and retained these skills all his life. He was outstanding in his day as a tennis

THE NIGHT SKY IN OCTOBER

**By Our Astronomy
Correspondent**

formed into this peculiar animal in consequence. The two stars at the western end, alpha and beta,



The diagram shows the archiver stars which may be above the horizon in the month of December. The stars are numbered according to the Ptolemaic system, and the letters A through G mark the positions of the planets at the time of the observations. The stars are arranged in a circle around the Earth, and the Earth is shown at the center. The stars are labeled with their names and numbers. The planets are labeled with their symbols and letters. The diagram is a planisphere showing the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

are worth looking at with binoculars. As it comes Aquarius, the water carrier. The star above the initial A and the one over I are the two stars which form the handle of an inverted T, a jar from which he is pouring water into the mouth of the Southern Fish. This constellation has no real haat. The whole watery series is

believed to commemorate the Deluge, and Aquarius in particular is supposed to signify the annual rising of the Nile.

The next zodiacal constellation is Pisces, the fish. It is made up of two ends of a cord or ribbon. One is just below Pegasus and the other too faint to show on this map. The constellation is called the Fishes is an ancient group like the

stars stretching from Orion to within 30° of the south celestial pole, where it terminates with the first magnitude star, Achernar, named by the Arabians as "the end of the river".

Away to the west and north of the equator or Cygnus, the swan, and Delphinus, the dolphin: these are aquatic creatures but do not

could have prevented this numerical decline; a less dedicated one might have failed to prevent it turning into a rout.

Latest wills

Mr Donald Grey Steer, of Patterdale, Penrith, Cumbria, bank manager, left, among others, £100,000 to the Cumbria and Lancashire Bank.

The son of Dr Erwin Pulay of Vienna, he was born on March 5, 1923 and educated in Austria, at Manchester Grammar School and at London University. During the Second World War he served in the Intelligence Corps from 1943 to 1947. He joined the

Pulay joined Charles Barker in 1968. He was a founder director of Charles Barker City, the first subsidiary company established within

He published (with James Derriman) *The Bridge Builders: The World's Money* in collaboration with his old *Times* colleague Mr. William Clarke, and was a contributor to the *Directors' Handbook*.

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Television

Showman syndrome

"The camera," remarked Viscount Weymouth at the start of *A Year in the Life* (BBC2), "brings out exhibitionist streaks in the quietest people." A remark we remembered later in Michael Croucher's splendid programme when the Magus of Wessex performed a distinctly exhibitionist streak after a butterfly down a hot lane in the South of France.

Would a year in the company of BBC2 cameras change his life, he wondered, as he looked away Volume 63 of his journal into the safe at Lonsdale. To the extent that Mr Croucher arranged for him to take up powered hand-gliding rather earlier than he expected — and very dangerous — he made it look the answer was yes. But attending to the rehabilitation of cottages on the estate, completing the murals for the night nursery, submitting to editorial discipline and his publisher's old Saxon frock to sit beside ladies in ice-blue wimples at what even he described as "a delightfully eccentric event" in Shepton Mallet, no, 1980 was a pretty average sort of year for Alexander Weymouth.

The camera which Karl Francis took into the Deri Welfare Association between Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly for the first programme in the documentary series *Forty Minutes* (BBC2) probably made as little difference to the glorious exhibitionists there. Howie and Tosh would still have gone for one another like dogs whenever the matter of unemployment and not being able to stand around came up, and Dillys would still have come across strident and temptuous, and strong on women's rights at the snooker table and everyone's right to work. Mr Francis, who knows the community well enough to make a plausible account of it, also made a film about the closing of the pits in 1975. Now even the club is threatened: "We must be more aggressive," said one, bravely tasting, "the words, 'more militant'."

World's End (BBC2), Ted Whitehead's neighbourhood soap-opera about life at the wrong end of the Kings Road, began well and unexpectedly with a challenge to Chelsea's tolerance in the form of a neat young Mormon (Helen Bush) chucked out of the house by an angry Catholic. How much better we can take around the bar at the Mulberry remains to be seen, but Whitehead's head and hand are steady and, provided he is not tempted to smooth out all the rough edges, the saguaries are fair.

Michael Ratcliffe

Cinema

Hopper makes an eloquent comeback

Out of the Blue (X)

Gate 3, Camden Town

Moscow Distrusts Tears (A)

Cinecenta

A Summer Affair (AA)

Minema

Enter the Ninja (X)

Warner, selected Odeons and Classics

Dennis Hopper was an actor of the James Dean era who then made his name and a Hollywood revolution with *Easy Rider*. After a second film as director, *The Last Movie*, a psychedelic muddle that still attracted its own small cult following, he vanished from the scene for a decade. Now he reappears with a singular and excellent film, made with modest means and with Canadian backing, *Out of the Blue*.

It is wholly American, though, in its picture of the lower depths of small-town life, and of a little family in a mess and without the economic or intellectual wherewithal to fight their way out of it. Don comes out of gaol after five years served for manslaughter in a nightmare accident with a school bus. Kathy, his pretty, feckless wife, still longs for him, but cannot resist the fun, flattery or handouts offered by any other man in town. She is further confused by dope: this couple, going on middle age, are the flotsam of Hopper's own hippie generation.

The victim, at the centre of it all, is little Babe (Linda Manz), slight, bright and street-wise. A punk child, she is in permanent mourning for Elvis. Her ability to fend off rapists and other perils of this rough life, with a quick right hook or a jet of foul talk, tends to conceal that she is still a kid with a kid's needs still and no one but herself to cope with them. In the end neither her resilience nor such vague and desperate battle cries as "Punk will live for ever" are enough.

Because she is a child, she remains the best and least corrupted of the people in the film. Not that they are bad; but the odds are stacked against them — not least their own ignorance, inarticulate-



Linda Manz in *Out of the Blue*: "One of the most riveting new personalities the screen has seen in ages"

ness and temperamental instability. Hopper makes you care about them, and feel the pinch of their narrow, no-way-out world. The performance, too, makes these constricted personalities both real and sympathetically interesting. Hopper, with his mean and hunted face, himself plays Don; Sharon Farrell's Kathy is stupid, likeable and decently kind-hearted.

Linda Manz is one of the most riveting new personalities the screen has seen in ages. There were already hints of her quality in Philip Kaufman's *The Wanderers*, in which she was the midwife mascot of the toughest of the street gangs. She has a young-old, boy-girl face, sometimes beautiful, sometimes repellent, and a tiny body that from time to time goes wily and fighting-mad like a cartoon crazy cat. She is defiant and poignant: defiant when she puts up her fists against a bouncer four times her weight, falls a creepy drum-

major with a single blow or lays on a persuasive impression of a child in psychotic retreat, to please and elude a well-meaning psychiatrist; poignant when she is sent out of class yelling "I thought teachers were supposed to help!" But whatever she does, so long as she is on the screen, you do not watch anyone else.

In the Soviet Union people get in messes in much more decorous ways. *Moscow Distrusts Tears* (an unpromising title if ever there was one) won this year's Oscar for the best foreign film, though there were distinctly better films in the running. Perhaps it was on the pattern of Johnson's woman preacher — the amazement after so many lean years of a Soviet film with recognizable human beings and situations and sympathies.

Or perhaps the American Oscar-voters were reassured to recognize the style and themes of a Hollywood senti-

mental comedy of the Thirties. Not one, indeed, but two: the film neatly falls in halves. The first half is a story of three smart girls who come to Moscow from the country in 1938, sleep in a hotel, wisecrack a good deal and get up to familiar movie pranks like borrowing a flat to kid their boy-friends they are classier than they are. They all find romance in one form or another. Part two rediscovers them twenty years later, when they have had their ups and downs; and one of them, now an unmarried mother of a grown-up daughter, enters on a belated love affair, which has to be helped over the hurdles that romantic comedies always put in the way of true love.

It is a pleasant, easy-going film, and was not, I suspect, greatly liked by the Soviet establishment: at least when it was shown at the Berlin festival, they did not let the director, Vladimir Menshov, accompany it.

Certainly the film talks rather plainly about the class distinctions of a nominally classless society. Maybe, too, there is more significance for Russian audiences than meets Western eyes in the nostalgia for the late Fifties, which was a very special time of new liberalism and relaxation. Personalities of the era appear in their own roles: Leonid Kharitonov, a teenage favourite of the period, now forgotten, is glimpsed preening at a film premiere, while Imokhenn Smokunovskii, soon to become a major stage and screen star, cannot get a ticket for the movie. A sense of the place and period is communicated even to a distant audience.

We British know, of course, that when the French get in a mess, it usually means sex; and Claude Berri's *A Summer Affair* does not dissuade us apart from anything else. Few films outside the regular blue market have offered such a display of bungeoning bare breasts, with generous flashes of bottoms into the bargain. It is a story, a daydream. Two grassy dowers (one divorced, the other enjoying a summer's separation of convenience) are on holiday with their teenage daughters. One of the girls seduces her father's friend (who claims to be a mere 44 seem to contradict the visual evidence). It precipitates a drama of bourgeois prejudices against age disparities in sexual relations and a few funny lines. The crisis of the film passes into brief interest, but the price is a laboured (if bosomy) build-up, and an evasive tease ending.

The publicity for *Enter the Ninja* claims for the antiquity of the art of Ninjitsu and for the film's own researches into the subject; but it looks to the uninitiated like any other sort of over-choreographed oriental violence, with the practitioners wearing a funny sort of boiler suit, pike hood and smog mask.

Apart from this, the film does bring home the essential indecency of spending millions of dollars on the sort of low stuff that in sadder days wasted only the cheapest pulp of the strip-cartoon comics. The Ninja-trained hero and the friend whose troubles he sorts out are old buddies from (heaven help us) mercenary service in Angola. The villain is an epicurean mogul who runs the business underworld of the Philippines and spends his spare time creating a Busby Berkeley water ballet with bathing beauties. Sheer silliness only slightly takes the edge off the brutality. It is approximately the fortieth film from the energetic Israeli director Menahem Golan, whose biggest success was the odious *Lemon Popsicle*.

David Robinson

Opéra



Vocal splendours: Verrett and Vickers

Samson et Dalila

Covent Garden

The new season at the Royal Opera House began on Monday with Elijah Moshinsky's production of Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila*. Anybody prejudiced against the work (as I used to be — biblical oratorio with a spicing of sex) is likely to end the evening with heightened respect for the music and the drama, and indeed with grateful appreciation for an uncommonly distinguished spectacle. It gives London the opportunity to see and hear two favourite singers, Jon Vickers and Shirley Verrett, in congenial title-roles, and Sir Colin Davis to deploy a Beechamesque magic in transforming what some thought was dress into manifest treasure.

The success of this *Samson et Dalila* is the superior artistic collaboration of Davis, Moshinsky and Sir Sidney Nolan, here making his debut in scenic design for an opera. Nolan's work is particularly striking, of a quality seldom seen in repertory opera, since his settings and costumes combine high artistic distinction with operatic practicality and appropriateness.

Nolan likes to pick a subject and explore it in a series of paintings, as he did for the Shakespearean cycle of the 1960s and, perhaps more fully, the 1970s. His settings for *Samson et Dalila* follow this method: Samson "eyes in Gaza" (the original more concentrated than the enlargement as a drop curtain), Dalila as sphinx and as odalisque, the wren caught in a thicket (from the Abraham and Isaac story, here partly a symbol for captive Samson, perhaps also a reference to Dagon, worshipped as a ram's head in the Philistine orgy) and several other scenes.

They are shown as backgrounds and foregrounds, as it were, commentaries on the drama which is played against Nolan's landscapes of desert or hillside, plantation or rotting wooden edifice. There is a suggestion that Gaza is in Africa rather than Israel, that Samson, who knew North Africa well, the Holy Land not at all, might have been content.

One might quibble about

Samson's mill-wheel, which looks non-functional, or about the pillars which support nothing in the temple of Davon, beyond two young men and a couple of dead rams. But they are used to spectacular effect, and look splendid. All of us may search our memories for opera settings as apt, original and beautiful as these.

Nolan created them with Moshinsky as, so to speak, his prompter, or vice versa, since the action on stage uncannily reflects and heightens the settings, and the music too. The orgy in the temple of Davon, potent in atmosphere and movement, even to violence and lurid ritual, stands out for its avoidance of the spectacle, nevertheless, does not swamp the saint. Colin Davis conducts Saint-Saëns's score with the delight and sensibility of a convinced devotee, and his cast as well as his orchestra responded like fervent disciples.

The duet of Dalila and the High Priest in the second act had the effect of intense drama, like that of Wotan and Fricka in the second act of *Die Walküre*. Samson's cry of despair at the stage-woman's betrayal, and the control by Davis as nobly and passionately as it was projected by Vickers, in magnificent moving voice. His cumbersome garments, surely quite wrong for a warrior, restrict his chances of acting with anything but his face; he looks more like Moses than Superman, but he sings the part to complete admiration.

It is a pleasure to listen to Shirley Verrett in a part so perfectly attuned to her voice, after her brave, sometimes ill-advised assaults on the soprano repertory. Dalila's music, high and low, lies naturally in the best part of her voice (and, as American singers go, her French is unusually respectable — when she addresses Samson, for example, his name does not sound like that of the composer).

Jonathan Summers is a telling High Priest, his baritone perhaps on the light-weight side for some of the music. Gwynne Howell's aged Hebrew gives strength to the finale of the first act. The Covent Garden chorus are in fine form; Samson was a daring choice, fully justified.

William Mann

Theatre

The Beastly Beatitudes of Balthazar B

Duke of York's

With a cast sizeable enough for a musical and locations ranging from Trinity College, Dublin, to Harrods and a house in Knightsbridge, *The Beastly Beatitudes of Balthazar B* is a real rarity: a roaring sentimental comedy with a ravenous appetite for life, lovingly created for the West End theatre.

In many ways it is a characteristic display of J. P. Donleavy's earthy preoccupations and poetic aspirations. Balthazar is a rather beautiful and vague young man, rumoured to be a prince and languorously ensconced at Trinity. His uneventful progress through biology is suddenly disrupted by the arrival of an old school friend, the boisterous, flam-

boyant and profane Beefe, a student of theology.

While Balthazar moves romantically into a relationship with the elegant Elizabeth Fildare, Beefe bursts into his rooms with women concealed in a trunk and a strong box full of £5 notes. In a manic scene, complete with chains and suggestions of very strange sexual inclinations, Simon Callow turns Beefe into a lovable ruffian. Against all odds he harnesses every excessive word and gesture and creates an oversized representation of the life force. None the less, the flaunting of Trinity's rules sends both men into the real world prematurely.

Scenes are linked by poetic and ironical musings from Balthazar, as his life and Beefe's spiral downwards from that moment of peace and raucous comedy in Dublin. Disinherited, Beefe is next seen in Harrods as a labourer keeping an appointment with Balthazar, and the eccentric charm of the play and Mr Callow's performance

is best revealed in that scene. Recounting his fall from grace, Beefe uses his usual blunt terminology, summarising his sexual and social situation in terms that draw rebukes from an elderly lady sitting next by.

Not every minor character has the exact tone of Sylvia Coleridge's elderly lady, but Mr Donleavy's touches give every scene the potential for such crying and howling porters and a strippers who takes every remark personally and responds in kind. Patrick Ryecart is wily sympathetic and touching as Balthazar, a more obvious victim of circumstances than Beefe, but they are the flipside of the same coin of personality and privilege.

The range of emotion in the production by Ron Daniels is very delicately modulated but the effect is strongly an affirmation of life and the varieties of love, from the coarse to the sublime.

Ned Chaillet

Creeps

Tricycle

Creeps is set in the men's room of a spastics club workshop, and all but two of the characters are handicapped. Pete's left arm is clamped uselessly to his chest and his mouth twitches uncontrollably as he speaks. Michael is only a little ungainly physically but he can scarcely talk, his only pleasure is flushing lavatories and he believes his penis to be a ray-gun. For an hour and a

half the audience sits watching these people, becoming accustomed to their stutters and twitches, through the first automatic response of fear, embarrassment, guilt and pity to the point where rational thought begins.

The author, David Freeman, is a victim of cerebral palsy and has himself spent time in such a workshop. In it the work-pieces, isolated from the world, are kept occupied with meaningless therapeutic tasks and provided with insidiously childish entertainment. Their responses reflect those of any similarly undervalued and under-estimated minority. The fire with whom the play deals include a gradualist, an embittered would-be revolutionary, a defeatist, a happy innocent and one who is determined to confront the world, hand-capped as he is, on its own terms. We are not asked to judge between them, simply to understand their positions and to reflect on the conditions of their lives.

The play has flaws. It is unlikely that among a random selection of five spastics, four would be so highly articulate. It seems a pity that the delicate subject of a handicapped person's rights to a sexually active life should be caricatured by the introduction of parents who respond to the discovery that their handicapped daughter has normal desires by praying that she may be forgiven. But if Freeman uses some of the politicians' tricks of simplification and exaggeration he uses them well, and contrives to present a complex case in a

theatrically manageable form. Peter Oliver's production brings out all the different tones from broadest parody to the most naturalistic dialogue to sudden explosions of physical and emotional violence. If the play sometimes seemed long that was as much a consequence of its starkly disconcerting subject as of its presentation. The cast, a finely balanced ensemble, tackle this difficult task with a painstaking and sensitive attention to detail.

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

Tibetan Inroads

Royal Court

Tibetan Inroads is set in a mountainous limbo at first, a feudal and ageless society peopled with peasants and priests. Pierce class divisions are shown to exist and a young man, called Dorje, is seen to have carnal knowledge of the wife of a devout Buddhist landowner. That adultery is discovered and Dorje brought before the Buddhist court to face judgment, which is merciless. All his property is given to the landowner and he is castrated.

From that beginning Stephen Lowe moves into Dorje's changing vision of the world. With the loss of his happy carnality, he seeks knowledge and Dorje brought before the abbot who judged him. In the mountains he meets brigands, low comic clowns who bump into each other and mutter

bad jokes. They lead him into the brothels of Lhasa and he meets a magician, a practitioner of Tibet's older religion, who teaches him how to conjure revenge from his mind.

All those events are isolated in the same timeless era, which could be anywhere in 600 years of Tibetan history, percolated through Mr Low's English consciousness, but Dorje's vision of the world creates a sense of more recent vintage. As Kenneth Cranham spins in an exhausting physical ritual, the creatures he brings from the shadows are members of the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army.

William Gaskill is careful to keep a sober balance between the flights of Mr Low's Tibetan speeches, the potentially laughable pretence of English actors in the guise of Asian peasants, and the crude exercises of comedy.

There are stumbling approximations to English family life in Mr Low's Asian fantasia, with Dorje's mother murmuring that things would be different if your father had stayed alive, and the story never makes the epic statement about the change of a culture that it seems to aim for. It does find an epic performance in Mr Cranham's highly intelligent portrait of Dorje.

His comprehension of the change in his life signals every conflict in the culture. Against some limp characterisations of Chinese soldiers, he matures into a thoughtful and deeply revolutionary figure.

Ned Chaillet

choreography, for example the tango where he borrows, and cleverly develops, an idea from Roland Petit; also the bacchanal of nude sailors, seen tactfully through gauze, explicit but not pornographic.

Poppy would be a better work if Murphy had a flair for imaginative dance images such as Kenneth MacMillan shows in another biographical work, *Mayerling*. However, *Mayerling* would benefit at least equally if MacMillan had his material into an eloquent, coherent whole, concise and well-shaped. *Poppy*, for me, reveals its subject more clearly. It is as good a piece of dance theatre as I have seen anywhere in long time, and the Sydney company, working as a team, put it over with a precision that Coteau would have admired.

It has to be said that Murphy's dance invention is not so much in evidence here as his understanding of what drama can be achieved through dancers' skills. There are some moments of striking

John Percival

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United ready to pay record fee for Robson

Bryan Robson, the England midfield player, is set to join Manchester United from Birmingham Albion. The clubs have agreed a combined fee of £2m for the 27-year-old. Robson joined United a fortnight ago, his fee being left to an independent valuation.

Robson has still to agree a personal terms with United's manager, Alex Ferguson. The former manager at the Hawthorns will pass a medical test. But it is not known if he can make his first appearance for United at Wolverhampton Wanderers tomorrow.

The Albion board met yesterday morning after Wednesday night's dismissal from the Uefa Cup by Manchester United. The club is to take over from Andy Gray as Brimhall's most expensive player in the summer transfer market.

Atkinson's determination to put United among the honours again has been a factor in Gray's departure. He was paid £500,000 on Frank Stapleton's loan. Atkinson has swapped Thomas for Gidman from Everton since Mr Atkinson took over.

Albion's manager, Ronnie Allen, confirmed that the club will release £2m to Manchester United from United, with Robson valued at £1.5m and Moses at £500,000. The club's £1.5m transfer levy added, the total cost of the Albion part will be near £2m.

The club's disagreement over the transfer value of Moses has ended and the matter will now go before the League's Transfer Committee.

Robson arrived at Old Trafford at 4.15 with his wife, agent and two children. He is expected to complete his medical and agree to personal terms with the manager. He is expected to enable him to play tomorrow.

Robson : poised to link up with his former manager.

properly to have two Olympic villages, which is contrary to the Olympic ideal. It was known that two villages would be necessary to accommodate the armadas, but to accommodate the armadas is unavoidable because the course is 79 miles long. The Los Angeles Olympic organizers was apparently surprised at the thought that the two villages would be needed for the course for their training.

As the Los Angeles games will not be televised, they will need the income from television is particularly important. This morning Mr. Ueberroth said he had already had received "an unsolicited bid of \$10m" from Channel 5 in Italy for the rights to televise the games.

As the European Broadcasting Union's bid had been less, Mr. Ueberroth said that the IOC would not televise the games, but would televise to the whole world, but what should we do about a bid from the United States? The IOC, the NOC's and the organizing committee," he said.

Mr. Ueberroth said that the 18 venues in Los Angeles were complete. He said: "The 1984 games will be the least commercialized Olympic games in history. We have just a few sponsors in a very dignified way. The cost is estimated at \$400m and the committee hope to make a small profit so to show that the Olympics can be profitable."

Mr. Ueberroth said, "I would be glad to sport for youth."

Grant's Success

Ian Grant, aged 24, the Kent amateur, who was playing at a Tibury locker, won the PGA Assistants' matchplay championship sponsored by Dorset Foods at the end of the previous year.

After disposing of Gordon Brand, the hot favourite, in the semi-final, he proved far too good for George Cullen, a 21-year-old Yorkshireman, in the final. He was six under par for the four rounds of the tournament, in which he was never out of the lead.

Grant won six par for the outward half and was four up after eight holes, a lead which he held off the 11th, which went to Walker, and then he won at the twelfth to go four up again.

Walker staged another recovery. He halved the 13th, won the 14th and 15th, but he was out of the lead the next, placed his tee shot on the 17th green—where Walker was short and eventually conceded the hole, and the match.

In addition to the 500 first prize, his biggest check to date, Grant gained a place in next year's PGA championships.

Walker's Loss

beat G. Brand, Jr. (Knowles, Bristol).
2. Sackin, C. (Cullen, Leeds, 11).
3. Walker, I. (Grant, Kent, 11).
Final: Grant, beat Walker, 2 and 1.

[illegible]

Few swinging in the rain

Tormental rain nearly halted the semi-final round of the junior world cup, sponsored by Commercial Union, at Portmarnock, Dublin, yesterday. Officials called a hasty ending after the course was partly flooded but decided to carry on.

England and the United States came through the United Kingdom conditions to qualify for a repetition of last year's final, which the Americans won. England, inspired by a remarkable comeback programme from Michael Few, aged 17, defeated Scotland by 2-1 and the United States beat the surprise finalists, Ireland, 3-0.

SEMI-FINALS: England 2, Scotland 1. M. Thompson and M. Few beat C. Brown and R. Craig, 3 and 2. Thompson paired with O'Leary; Few beat J. McQuinn, 3 and 2.

SCOTLAND: S. Anderson and J. Davidson 1 and 3; G. Sullivan 1 and 3; Randolph lost 5-0.

UNITED STATES: A. Holt, Andrews beat S. Auld and J. ...

Money seems to be no object when the ambitions of Hull are concerned. The club has been annually basking in the luxury of five-figure gates, have many thousands moved into the transfer market to build their successful side, and are reputed to have bid, on several occasions, more than £100,000 for John Woods, the Leigh stand-off half.

Hull's latest ambitious plan will stagger the rest of the Rugby League by its sheer size and cost—namely, the name of general reconstruction of the stadium. There will be a new dressing room, a new stand, whose design has already been decided, terraced referees and visiting stands, will be demolished and replaced by a new stand, which will contain 2,200 seats. The sum of £125,000 will be spent on new dressing rooms, showers and canteen. There will also be private boxes costing a total of £75,000 to build, an indoor sports hall and a new training pitch. It is hoped to begin work early next year.

Hull's willingness to think big and spend accordingly has had a number of critics. At a cost of £22,500, they arranged the tragedies and flew over from New Zealand two international footballers, Dave O'Hare and James Beckula, and they hoped to swell the gate to more than 15,000 last year. The result was a serious and a chest injury which they kept him out for a month.

Ken Kelly, the Warrington winger, who was injured, was expected at £60,000 without taking a decision to make his place

with the club and has come off the list.

Mumby, the Bradford Northern full back, is recovering from his knee infection and hopes to be fit for the Yorkshire Cup match sponsored by Webster's Brewery, against Castleford on Headingley tomorrow.

Star Fox, the Northern coach, has selected Hale at right centre instead of an international player because David Redfern, who has been out of form, doubtful for Castleford, though he is striving to get fit, is the player-coach. Reilly, the scrum-half, has knee injuries after a long career.

□ The recent campaign to improve scrummaging will be discussed by the Rugby League executive committee, which meets next Wednesday, the Press Association reports. During the first month a campaign designed to eliminate scrummaging faults, clubs were told not to mark the referee's performances. From this month, clubs will be asked to discuss the officials again.

Davey Howes, the league spokesman, said that the decision of the executive committee meeting, there would be a further meeting between the committee and the referees to discuss the whole campaign. This will be followed by a conference, attended by coaches and two hookers, representing players in that position, who have been invited to put their point of view forward.

Mr Howes said: "One thing is clear. From the first month of the campaign, there has been an improvement in the scrummaging. The ball is now emerging from the back of the scrum, giving the players half the chance to open up the play."

[illegible][illegible]

After 27 years

Association and raised the old spectre of rich English clubs buying Scottish talent as soon as it matures.

According to Mr Keward, the accusations are baseless. Nothing, he says, has happened since anything. "I don't like the northern clubs do—make an exception for Canadian players," he said.

Tim Peacock, a centre, is an antique dealer. Mark Kasun, a defence, works on a North Sea oil rig, which is why he has to miss half the Panthers' games. The two new Scottish arrivals—Terry Gudmundson, a centre, and Jeff Anderson, a defenceman—are looking for work.

Early season results have been impressive, but Mr Keward sees Saturday's game against Durham as "the first real test".

The Durham club are among the favourites for the new league. They have been making steady progress since the British North League—which also contains the best Scottish clubs—with their team of exclusively local players.

Former Durham players and the two best team in England. But it is probably too late to get

1551/1941

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Home loans confusion as building societies mark time

By Adrienne Gleeson
The latest increase in interest rates has thrown the mortgage market into total confusion. Although the building societies are not likely to announce any changes in their mortgage rates until next week, three of the big four clearing banks yesterday gave notice of increases in their home loan rates. As a result home buyers could be paying anything between 13 per cent (on a basic rate loan from a building society) and 18 per cent (on a loan from Midland Bank). The Building Societies Association is due to meet next Friday, and is expected to recommend an increase in its basic mortgage rate, now 13 per cent, of between two and three points. This means that the rate charged on building society mortgages will at least match the previous record of 15 per cent, charged in the closing months of 1980, and could go to its highest level ever.

Yesterday Barclays, National Westminster and Midland all announced increases in the mortgage rates they charge to home buyers. Midland's rate automatically rose by two points to 18 per cent when the bank lifted its base rate. However, very few of Midland's borrowers are likely to have to pay more immediately, since the bank operates a scheme under which repayments are held static for the first two years of any mortgage.

The rate charged by Barclays and NatWest is independent of their base rates. The former is to be increased from 14 to 15 per cent on November 1, while the latter is to go up from 13 to 15 per cent from October 13. Lloyds Bank, which also operates a home loan rate independent of its base rate, has for the moment decided to do nothing, so that the rate that it charges remains at 14 per cent.

The building societies argue that they will be forced to increase their rates in order to maintain the flow of money into their offices. After a poor performance in August—which is traditionally a bad month for savings—September receipts are believed to have recovered to some £350m. But this is still some £100m below the September 1980 total, and around £50m lower than what the societies need if they are to maintain their level of lending.

Although removal of the age limit on the index-linked National Savings Certificates does not seem to have had as much of an effect on building societies funds as they initially feared, the increase in the rate offered on the National Savings Bank Investment Account, from 13 to 14 per cent with effect from November 1, could provide much more serious competition unless the societies adjust their rates in the meantime.

City stars emerge from the back room

By Philip Robinson
The City's version of the football results, detailing league tables and superstars in the world of the charts and graphs, is published today showing how the stockbrokers' back-room analysts have performed during the past year.

The assessment of those who predict company profits, currencies, metals and international markets is made by the analysts' customers—the year 90 fund managers who handle £70,000m of investment cash.

Top of stockbroking league—these firms whose analysts gained the most points—is once again James Capel. Making its debut in the top ten list for the first time in two years is W. Greenwell who came in at seventh.

Where a firm finishes in the top ten depends entirely on the strength and performance of its analytical staff. Greenwell has benefited this year from taking in White (who came third in Pharmaceuticals) and Stuart Wamsley, top chemical analysts formerly with Heddewick Stirling Grubner.

Individual superstars, those with the most points covering any one sector were Scripps' John Hewitt, Gerald Horner, Geoffrey Carr and Nick Bubb. They took first and third place for the year in the Stores and Food Retailing sectors. Laing & Crickbank's Merchant Banking analyst, Mr Bernard Lardner, was tipped into second place by just one point.

Among those who have lost the top places held for some time were Hamish Buchan (Wood Mackenzie) in the Investment Sector, He was relegated to second place by James Capel's Richard Green and James Kelly. Montagu Loeb Stanley's Robert Carpenter lost top place to Overseas Traders to Mick Smith and Bob Morton of Simon & Coates.

The survey shows that Savory & Millin's computer print-out of their former strong areas of Mechanical Engineering and Metals and Metallurgy and John Littlewood of Rowe & Pimman dropped from second to fourth place in Life Assurance.

At the end of it all, the information giving the top three analysts and their teams in 58 sections of financial markets—compiled and produced by the Continental Illinois International Investment Corporation—has been a useful backdrop to negotiations. Few analysts earn less than £12,000 and some earn more than £25,000 a year.

Continental's survey, at £80 a copy, goes to most broking firms, who can also get a detailed computer print-out of how many points analysts employed by them gained from the fund managers.

TOP TEN STOCKBROKERS
Measured by the performance of their analysts 1981

James Capel	1 (1)
Scoringhouse, Kamp-Gee	2 (2)
Phillips & Drew	3 (4)
Laing & Crickbank	4 (5)
Wood Mackenzie	5 (3)
Hoare Govett	6 (8)
W. Greenwell	7 (—)
De Zoete & Bevan	8 (6)
Simon & Coates	9 (7)
Rowe & Pimman	10 (8)

Figures in brackets indicate 1980 placing.

Pound jumps on news of bank rates rise

By Frances Williams and Catherine Gunn

News of the two-point rise in bank base rates sent the pound soaring against all leading currencies on the world's foreign exchange markets yesterday. Shares fell sharply immediately after the announcement by Barclays, the first bank to make a move, but recovered later to end only slightly down on the day.

The pound began moving ahead from the start of European trading as speculation grew that an announcement on base rates was imminent. But the two-point rise to 16 per cent was larger than some had expected. This, and news—later denied—of an Iranian air attack on a Kuwaiti oil installation, led to a fresh surge which at one stage took the pound to \$1.8960. It finished at \$1.8815, trading a little lower at \$1.8815, up 2.65 cents from Wednesday. This brought its rise since Monday to more than 5 cents.

Sterling also made substantial gains on European currencies, jumping to 4.27 Deutsche marks before closing at 4.25. The DM24560, more than 6 pence up from Wednesday and some 16 pence higher than the low point of about DM4.10 to which it sank early last week. The index measuring sterling's value against a basket of currencies rose by 1.1 to 88.5 per cent of its average 1975 level, the highest for a fortnight.

Yesterday's rise in base rates leaves sterling interest rates in the middle range, below dollar rates at around 18 per cent but above German rates of around 12 per cent.

On the London money market, where banks and other financial institutions trade "wholesale" interest rates rose sharply on the base rate news after opening higher, but subsided later in the day. The cost of seven day money, which is a key influence on clearing banks' base rate decisions, closed at around 16 per cent, up 1 percentage point from Wednesday.

A nervous stock market took fright at Barclays Bank's 2 point increase in base rate in spite of having expected just such a move from one of the big five banks for nearly three anxious weeks. Share prices, already weak, dropped sharply yesterday morning on the news, taking the FT Index down 10.7 points at 11 am before jobbers' nerves steadied, when prices crept upwards again. Though hardly in a confident mood, the London market recovered itself sufficiently during the day to bring the FT Index above its opening level, ending just 0.4 points below Wednesday's close at 475.0. Trading remained thin and largely featureless, except in oil shares, where conflicting reports on Kuwait oil fields

sent prices sharply higher yesterday. Generally, investors continue to look for a lead from the world's other major stock markets.

Spode wins giftware rights for Papal visit

By Tony Hodges

The Royal Worcester Spode group has been granted exclusive rights to produce the official ceramic giftware which will mark the visit by the Pope to Britain next May.

The company won the official seal of approval after the committee responsible for details of the six-day visit had seen the range produced for the royal wedding celebrations.

"They were anxious to have a company that had the right tradition and capability to produce the right quality and quantity", said a spokesman for the group.

"On Tuesday, the first item completed by the designers will be presented to Monsignor Ralph Brown, the general coordinator for the visit, at the Worcester factory."

It is a loving cup which symbolizes the spirit of the Pope's visit. On one side there will be a cartoon by an American nun and the range which begins with the known as Bellotti in honour. On the other side will be an engraving of Westminster Cathedral.

The company intend to produce an extensive collection including chalices, plates, bowls, tankards, goblets, cups and plaques. Although there will be limited edition items likely to cost hundreds of pounds, the idea is to make most pieces available to everyone with prices starting at £2.

Production will go on through the winter and the giftware will be on sale from March. It will all be produced within the Royal Worcester Spode, Talisay and Hammerley group.

"Obviously we are very excited at this appointment", the spokesman said. "We are hopeful that it will prove as successful as the royal wedding series."

Said from that collection reached £3m and came at a time when the ceramics manufacturing industry was feeling the effects of the recession. The Group hopes to match those sales and may have to increase its 2,500 workforces in some departments to meet the orders.

As well as aiming at the home market, Worcester Spode also have an eye on potential exports to north America and some of the pieces will be designed with that in mind.

MTTA's Ward resigns over 'Cabal'

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's machine tool industry was shaken yesterday by the sudden resignation of Mr Roy Ward, the new director general of the Machine Tool Trades Association.

Mr Ward, who was appointed on June 1, left the association's Bayswater Road headquarters in London immediately after tendering his resignation. This was confirmed in a terse statement issued by the association's officers.

His departure, which appears to be the result of a serious personality clash with certain elected members of the association's executive board, will come as a blow to the industry in its efforts to boost its international standing by presenting a unified and more dynamic image.

Mr Ward, 45, and a former Regent, who took over the £18,000 a year post as MTTA, after more than a year as deputy director of the British Carpet Manufacturers' Association. He is understood to be leaving the MTTA with a cash payment of about £10,000 and a car.

He said yesterday: "I tried to take the machine tool industry into the 1980s which, I believe, the approval of the MTTA from Mr Howard Barrett, who retired in May and at that time did not disguise his unhappiness with the lack of responsibility afforded to the MTTA's director general, a post he felt should be similar in stature to that of a company's managing director."

Mr Barrett said yesterday he would not be surprised if a personality clash had caused Mr Ward's departure. But, he said, the upheaval at the top of the MTTA would have an adverse effect on the membership and would harm the industry internationally.

Mr Ward's appointment was described by one leading engineering journal as "Machine tools fits a dynamo" and he has made considerable efforts to impress on the MTTA's 530 members the need for a new approach to public relations and marketing.



Mr Roy Ward: Personality clash blamed.

man of Cincinnati in Birmingham, were unavailable. Mr Galley said the association's affairs would be administered by the officers until a successor to Mr Ward was appointed.

Mr Ward took over at the MTTA from Mr Howard Barrett, who retired in May and at that time did not disguise his unhappiness with the lack of responsibility afforded to the MTTA's director general, a post he felt should be similar in stature to that of a company's managing director.

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Rights issues hit by City slump

By Our Financial Staff

The past week's slide in the stock market has taken its toll on the City's ability to raise money from investors. Recently announced rights issues are being shunned by existing shareholders and what only a couple of weeks ago looked to be one of the most exciting new issues in some time, the Habitat 'vires' group, has met with a fairly muted response from investors.

The merchant banks handling the Habitat issue, Morgan Grenfell and Bank Meese & Hope NV, were comforted by the fact that applications for all the 10.9 million shares on offer had been received at an average price of 118p compared with the original tender offer price of a minimum 110p. But the banks said that in the light of present stockmarket conditions it had set the striking price for the shares—the price at which the company clears the

£12m it had sought to raise—at 110p.

Morgan Crucible's £10.8m rights issue to finance a major expansion in the United States has fallen victim to the general fall in equity prices. The group's share price closed at 102p yesterday, and only 14.5 per cent of the shares on offer have been taken up. Today attention will switch to BICC whose £39m rights issue closes.

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Heseltine backs radical training schemes

By Mark Jackson

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, is demanding radical training schemes, which the Government is assisting to introduce nationally for Liverpool's young jobless.

The schemes arising from his visit to Merseyside after the summer's riots involve a departure in policy—making training a condition of public service contracts, or of help to private industry.

The biggest scheme proposed so far is for private builders in the area to be given an assurance that houses they cannot get rid of will be bought by the local authority or housing associations—on condition that the builders take on a large

number of the young unemployed to help in their construction.

Officials are suggesting that 1,000 houses should be built and that three trainees should be taken on for each of the 500 craftsmen needed. Trainees would get allowances under the Government's Youth Opportunities Programme.

Figures in brackets indicate 1980 placing.

CBI urges National Insurance cut

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Industry's costs will be increased by an estimated £1,000m as a result of the 4 per cent increase in base rates over the past two weeks. Industrialists warned yesterday that the latest 2 per cent increase announced yesterday would act as a further brake on investment, spending and lead to further price rises.

Sir Raymond Pennock, president of the Confederation of British Industry, issued a stern warning to the Government that companies in the manufacturing sector now looked to the Cabinet to initiate a cut in the employers' National Insurance Surcharge.

Sir Raymond said that the latest round of interest rate increases came as no surprise and yesterday's 2 per cent rise merely illustrated how difficult it was to withstand international pressures unless the Government made substantial cuts in public expenditure. The

employers' organization recently published detailed proposals aimed at demonstrating how the Government could make cuts in current spending amounting to £3,000m a year by 1984 while at the same time providing a modest stimulus to capital spending in the public sector.

"This increase, together with that of two weeks ago, has added about £1,000m to business costs when many companies are struggling to compete in both home and export markets," he said. "It will tend both to raise prices and reduce investment and it is now even more urgent that the Government should cut the National Insurance Surcharge—which is simply a tax on jobs—and the sooner the better."

The Institute of Directors, whose director general, Mr Walter Goldsmith, is among the Prime Minister's staunchest supporters, acknowledged that the

latest interest rate increase would make things difficult for companies and would hit investors.

"At the same time, not to have increased the rate would have been irresponsible from the point of view of economic recovery in the future that would have been far more damaging to job prospects," said the Institute.

The organization urged that banks show greater flexibility in their lending to small companies, large companies expedite payment of bills to their suppliers, and the Government to tackle its own spending.

But last night, ministers were warned that the credibility of the Government's economic policies was at stake. Mr Roy Close, director general of the British Institute of Management, said that some encouragement must be given to lift the gloom which pervaded large parts of industry.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

White House insists that tax cuts must stand

Suggestions in some quarters of the United States Congress that recently legislated tax cuts be rolled back are meeting with forceful opposition from the White House which insists that the budget must be balanced through spending cuts, rather than by reducing the scale of planned tax cuts.

Mr David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, told Congress yesterday that "a turnaround of the tax package would have a chilling effect on saving and investment incentives and the willingness of investors and

business to undertake risk". He urged Congress to act swiftly on President Reagan's most recent package of spending cuts in order to boost confidence in financial markets.

Mr Edwin Meese, councillor to the President, was asked on television whether Mr Reagan would consider any change in the tax cuts. He replied: "No, absolutely not."

But it looks as if the administration has yet to convince the markets that it can sell its package of budget cuts to the Congress. Fears of sustained high interest rates remain widespread.

GKN plants to close

The slimming down of GKN's barchit screws and fastener business is continuing. Two and possibly three plants at Smethwick, West Midlands, are to close with 400 redundancies.

The company blames cheap imports from the Far East and recession in the home market.

In the past two years nearly 1,800 fastener workers have lost their jobs. 805 of them in plants now being axed and the remainder after the closure of Thomas Haddon and Stokes, Birmingham, and GKN Nut and Bolts, Darlaston, West Midlands.

Smethwick employees were told yesterday that manufacture will be concentrated in one or two plants. The unused factories will then be sold.

Russia will buy more grain

The Soviet Union is expected to buy in the next 12 months an extra 10 million tonnes of grain from the United States above the 8 million already agreed, the head of the American negotiating team said after talks in Moscow.

Airbus order

Middle East Airlines says it will sign a \$350m (£192m) contract to buy five wide-bodied European Airbus jets from Airbus Industrie at the end of this month.

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PRICE CHANGES

Rises

ASS Book	20p to 293p
Anglo Am Corp	17p to 715p
Bowthorpe Bids	12p to 172p
Bracken Mines	12p to 166p
Gas & Oil Acre	10p to 310p
Lasmo	15p to 434p
Sainsbury J	11p to 435p
Sentrast	12p to 416p
Security Serv	10p to 165p
Ultramar	15p to 410p

Falls

Broken Hill	15p to 645p
Christies	15p to 153p
Chesterfield	10p to 300p
Hongkong	25p to 425p
Jardine Matheson	9p to 125p
Ranger Oil	15p to 465p
Rand Mine Prop	20p to 313p
Rollicus Subs	5p to 445p
Simon Eng	10p to 340p
Taylor Woodrow	10p to 495p

Link House ahead

Link House Publications, which came to market two years ago, reported profits for the 12 months to June from £4.2m to £4.5m on a turnover 15 per cent higher at £25.2m. The gross dividend is raised from 12p to 14.2p with a 9.7p final. The group says there should be modest growth this year. Both Blandford Books and Link House Communication fell deeper into the red.

Polish debt agreement

Poland and its Western bank creditors have reached agreement after six months negotiation on rescheduling an estimated \$2,400m (£1,300m) of debt that was due to be repaid by the end of the year.

Under the agreement 95 per cent of the principal has been rescheduled for repayment by December 1988. The remaining 5 per cent will be repaid over the next year.

The Poles will have to pay 1.75 per cent above London interbank offer rate on the rescheduled funds.

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Vickers sees clouds ahead

Vickers, the engineering group, reports a rise in profits but says: "We still see no signs of an upturn in the United Kingdom economy, and the recent increase in interest rates further adds to the burden of our costs and may well delay any increase in activity."

Pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 were £9.5m against a comparable £5.7m for the same months of 1980. But the total pre-tax return on sales is little more than 3 per cent.

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£39m in grants from Europe

The United Kingdom is to receive £39m in grants from the European regional development fund for industrial and infrastructure projects in assisted areas.

Northern England will get £12.5m and Yorkshire and Humberside £3.8m, while the remainder will go to Scotland (£14.6m), Northern Ireland (£4.8m) and Wales (£3.4m).

The fund has contributed more than £720m to United Kingdom projects since its inception in 1975. The £39m is the third 1981 allocation.

KOREA SEEKS JET DEAL

South Korea wants to manufacture components for British Aerospace, initially for the Hawk jet trainer aircraft. Mr Suh Suk-joon, Minister of Commerce and Industry, told a press conference in London that he had invited a BAe team to Seoul for detailed discussions on the proposal. He said that South Korea was very interested in the Hawk as a trainer for its force.

He said that if the Koreans manufactured some of the simpler components for BAe, his country would save foreign exchange and the British side would benefit from cheaper labour costs in S. Korea.

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Dawn raider's shares listed

Allianz Versicherungs-AG, West Germany's largest general insurance group, which earlier this year launched a dawn raid on Eagle Star, yesterday gained a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Allianz is keen to attract more British institu-

tional investors and says that it recognized that the group was not sufficiently known at the time of its raid on Eagle Star. The group owns 12 per cent of premium income from overseas business. Its shares stand at about DM430 where they yield 23 per cent.

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July 20 1980

IN BRIEF

Shipping industry faces costs challenge

Britain could decline to a minor maritime power, unless the shipping industry controls costs and moves up market to more sophisticated ships, Mr Edmund Vestey, president of the General Council of British Shipping said yesterday.

But that was a pessimistic possibility and personally he was optimistic that the industry would take the necessary steps and survive as a major maritime power despite a current 30 per cent seafarers' wage claim and lack of tax relief from the Government.

Shipowners were worried not only about the capacity of the merchant fleet in emergencies but also worried about the Navy's defence capability. Britain had committed ships to NATO and as an island race needed shipping capacity to bring in essential goods like oil in time of emergency.

\$8,500m for the whole of 1980 when turnover rose 42 per cent to 1,540,000m lire.

Malaysian surplus

Malaysia's trade surplus for the first three months of this year fell to \$506m (\$1,121.7m) compared to \$1,684.9m (\$724.69m) for the same period last year.

Bovis contracts

Bovis Construction has been awarded three contracts totalling £2.3m, including alteration work at the National Westminster Bank building in Lothbury, London, EC2.

Schweppes order

Whelan of Newcastle has won a £1m contract to design and build a distribution, warehouse and production complex for Schweppes at East Kilbride, Strathclyde.

Italian pay rise

Pay increases for Italy's manual workers and most categories of office employees continued to exceed the rise in consumer prices in August, the National Statistics Institute said in Rome.

France-Japan talks

France and Japan ended a two-day meeting in Tokyo on trade without reaching agreement on France's request that Japan ease non-tariff barriers on more than 10 items, Japanese officials said.

Belgian steel loan

The Belgian steel conglomerate, SNS, is raising a \$180m (£103m) Eurocredit, banking sources said in London.

Turnover decline

West German wholesale turnover fell a real 5.8 per cent in the first seven months of 1981 compared with the same 1980 period, but rose a nominal 0.6 per cent to DM367,000m (£88,300m).

Car sales boost

The Spanish government has reduced the luxury tax on cars from 26 per cent to 24 per cent for larger cars and proportionately for small cars in an attempt to revive flagging sales.

£6m coal system

Anderson Strathclyde, the Scottish mining machinery company, is to install a £6m coal cutting manufacturing system, to be supplied by Giddings & Lewis-Fraser of Arbroath.

Steel cuts urged

The EEC commission has urged steel producers to make urgent production cuts for the fourth quarter of this year on products accounting for 30 per cent of EEC steel output.

Alitalia flying low

Alitalia had a disappointing first-half performance for 1981 because of soaring personnel, marketing and fuel costs. Revenue rose 15.3 per cent from a year earlier to 670,000m lire (£316m) but the company posted a loss of



Browsing for remaindered books: such bookshops are prospering

Photograph by Peter Trifirov

Publishers back the best-sellers

By David Hewson

Any British novelists suffering for their art by starving in the traditional garret can take little comfort from the latest survey of the country's publishing business. According to it, success must be measured by the ability to turn out 100,000-word "mega-blockbusters" of love, war and thrills, or a novelistic version of the latest television hit series.

Everyone outside of these somewhat strict commercial guidelines must, presumably, hope for posthumous recognition. The report says that in 1980 British publishers hit a record for publishing new titles, turning out 48,000 on an unsuspecting British public. But the range shrank considerably, with most of the major publishers pinning their hopes and money on the

success of a blockbuster title to follow in the footsteps of Penguin's *The Far Pavilions*, which set the sales trend in 1979.

The corollary to this emphasis on commercial success is predictable. Remainder shops have prospered as never before, selling books for as little as 20 per cent of their cover price, and titles are being remaindered much sooner than ever after publication.

At the same time, currency problems have led to the export share of British book production falling from 44 per cent in 1977 to 33 per cent in 1980.

One growing market for book sales is postal clubs, but they are not likely to prove of much comfort to the author. The survey estimates that

Britain has two million club members who buy 15 per cent of the nation's hardback sales. All legally circumvent the retail sale price clause on High Street book sales, the Net Book Agreement, by selling at reduced prices.

The survey shows a penchant for the American marketing techniques being imported into the business, which traditionalists in the publishing world may deplore. At one point it comments: "Active marketing is increasingly important when there is a declining volume of sales."

"Older publishing houses may find the marketing of books, as if the goods were soap powder, rather distasteful, although it is noticeable that there is a growing awareness of commercial radio and television."

But the marketing, and consequently unsavory, message would seem to be confirmed in the survey's figures reporting the top 10 companies with the highest return on capital employed. At number one comes Mills and Boon, producer of many a softback throwaway romance, followed by Butterworths, the law and business publishers. Michael Joseph, the more conventional publisher, comes in at number three.

With education cuts threatening future book sales, there seems little hope of publishers returning to their original practice of allowing authors to produce three loss-making books in the hope that the fourth will make a profit.

Book Publishers, ICC Business Ratios, £80.

Grocery trade shuns High Street sites

By Hugh Clayton

The number of supermarkets has almost halved in the past 10 years and the trend towards fewer but larger outlets is continuing, the Institute of Grocery Distribution reports.

Its latest survey of the grocery trade shows that the average size of store closed rose in the past year. This suggests that the supermarket chains, having closed their smallest and most uneconomic units, are now finding it necessary to abandon some larger high street sites.

The grocery trade is abandoning high streets and moving into green field sites with large car parks and into suburban shopping centres. Well below half the supermarkets outside the Co-operative movement and little more than a quarter of Co-operative stores are now in high streets.

More than 5 per cent of grocery units are now on separate sites outside town centres. Many such units are included in the superstore category, defined as units with selling space of 25,000 sq ft or more.

The survey records a return to food sales as a bulwark against the impact of the recession.

Grocery Trade Review 1981: Institute of Grocery Distribution, Lechliffe House, Watford, Herts; £40.

Mortgage rise would hit house builders

By Tony Hodges

A rise in mortgage rates described by the building societies as "inevitable" would further depress a housing market already suffering from a lack of new buyers. Many householders who wish to buy new homes find it difficult to sell existing homes, or cannot meet the costs of a first time purchase. Also, many homeowners find it difficult to keep up with increasing repayments.

That is the view of the House Builders Federation after analysing the results of its latest survey among 250 leading builders, which shows that the promising start to the year, when demand for new private housing was improving, has not been maintained.

The survey concludes that, so long as the recession continues and the fall in real incomes affects demand, there is unlikely to be a marked recovery in the level of house starts.

Of the companies questioned, which between them produce about half the new homes in England and Wales, only 12 per cent reported an increase in demand over the past three months, while 44 per cent said there had been a decline in potential purchaser interest.

Even the market for first time buyers which until now had been reasonably buoyant and was expected to lead the recovery was for the first time since September last year, showing signs of a downturn.

The immediate future seems little brighter. Only 36 per cent of the companies were hopeful of increasingly house starts in the coming 12 months, while just three months ago 48 per cent had been optimistic.

Mr Lynn Wilson, the federation's president, said that the overall housing shortage threatened to reach crisis proportions in the mid-1980s with a deficit of around 500,000 houses now seeming all too probable.

Pirelli steps up Europe tyre war with new radial

From Edward Townsend, Vizola, Italy, Oct 1

Pirelli has stepped up the European tyre war, with the launch of an improved, fuel-saving and longer-lasting radial.

The Italian manufacturer claims that a car fitted with its advanced technology P8 tyre in place of a standard steel-belted radial can use up to 6 per cent less fuel. The new P8, introduced in its current form 20 months ago, is also said to have double the tread life of a crossply tyre.

Its introduction comes as the European car industry is struggling in the face of a two-year slump in car sales which has hit both the original equipment (OE) and replacement markets. The total European tyre market is expected to grow by only 3 per cent next year.

According to Pirelli, tyre manufacture is unprofitable despite, in its own case, an increase in the volume of sales. As a result tyre makers have been investing large sums in research and development to improve performance and longevity and, particularly important in the OE sector, to give improved fuel economy. Pirelli's research and development budget is running at about £30m a year.

The major tyre groups are now battling to win greater shares of the car makers' business with their new products. In Britain, Michelin, Dunlop and Pirelli are each hoping to clinch OE deals with B.I. and Ford within the next few months.

Pirelli, which has been conducting extensive tests at its development centre here on its new low-profile tyre, said that the fuel-saving potential was the equivalent of reducing a car's weight by 170lbs. The tyre is claimed to possess

superior road-holding capabilities but has a rolling resistance 30 per cent lower than a standard radial.

Major European car makers are aiming to reduce fuel consumption in new models by 10-20 per cent and Pirelli said its tyre alone could go more than half way to meeting the targets. A motorist covering the European average of 10,000 miles a year should be able with P8 tyres to boost this to 10,600 miles on the same amount of petrol.

Although the new generation of radials is more expensive, there is a belief among manufacturers that the characteristics will be more than adequate compensation to the car-makers. Pirelli is hoping to get the price of the new P8 down to within 5 per cent of standard radials.

In Britain, Pirelli claims to have a 15 per cent share of the steel-belted radial OE market against Michelin's 23 per cent. Its factories at Carlisle and Burton-on-Trent have been subjected to a £25 five-year investment programme and by the end of next year will be devoted to steel-radial production. All P8 output at Carlisle is exported as original equipment to SAAB and Volvo in Sweden.

The Italian company, which last year ended its nine-year-old union with Dunlop, saw its British subsidiary suffer a pre-tax loss of £4.32m in 1980 compared with a £4.2m deficit the previous year.

The United Kingdom industry's labour force has dwindled from 47,000 in 1973 to 31,000 last year and factory closures have been implemented by Dunlop, Goodyear and Firestone.

Inauguration for £94m refinery improvements

By Rupert Morris

The £94m upgrading of the Amoco/Murco refinery at Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, is to be formally inaugurated today by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

The main feature of the development is a catalytic cracking unit designed to break down crude oil intake more efficiently to overcome excess refining capacity in Europe. It was completed in two years, a record for such a unit in Britain.

The "cat" cracker, as it is known, was developed by Amoco and Pullman Kellogg and can convert 32,000 barrels a day of heavy fuel oil to petrol and other light blending materials. It will increase petrol output 300 per cent, Mr

Glenn Hankins, managing director of Amoco UK, said yesterday.

Amoco's Milford Haven refinery, like many others in Britain, has been operating at only 50 per cent capacity this year as a result of low demand. Anticipated output with the cat cracker is between 80 per cent and full capacity.

Mr Hankins pointed out that while fuel oil, as a percentage of oil output has declined from 45 to 27 per cent since 1973, petrol had increased from 19 per cent to 33 per cent. The cat cracker would enable Amoco to sell more petrol, the most valuable product, while reducing output of less valuable fuel oil, he said.



Dalgety achieves record profit for 1981

World-wide Agriculture and Food

The results of Dalgety Ltd. for the year to 30th June, 1981 were:

Profit before tax £41.2m, up 23%.

Turnover £2,393m, up 28%.

The improvement was widespread with similar or increased profit coming from all the main countries.

The new UK subsidiary, Dalgety Spillers, has been a success from the outset. Integration of the feed mills is nearing completion with £8m spent on six mills. Flour milling performed well. Capacity is being modernised with over £3m spent at Cambridge and a new £6m mill to be built at Avonmouth. Associated British Maltsters increased their export sales and were rewarded with a Queen's Award—the second in five years.

Results from Australia and New Zealand are satisfactory in spite of the drought in Australia and difficult trading conditions generally.

In the United States, Martin-Brower once again achieved record profits. Modern Maid was turned from loss into profit and our frozen vegetable business

Dalgety Foods improved slowly.

In Canada, our lumber and trading company achieved record results.

The Directors are recommending a final dividend of 11p per share, maintaining the total dividend for the year at 22p.

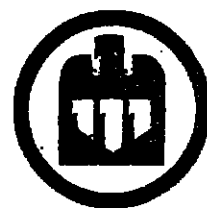
We expect to improve performance still further in subsequent years as the policies we have initiated bear fruit. We believe we have built a sound base, in terms of markets, plant and, most importantly, people, well fitted to take full advantage of the opportunities that will arise. Dalgety should make further advances in the coming year and we continue to face the future with confidence.

David Donne, Chairman



The Report and Accounts for 1981, together with the new Corporate Brochure, will be posted to shareholders early in November.

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Allianz

Allianz Versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft

(Incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany)

Share Capital

Authorised
DM 526,000,000

8,320,000 shares
of DM 50 each in issue

Issued and fully paid
DM 416,000,000

The Council of The Stock Exchange in London has granted permission for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Allianz Versicherungs-AG to be admitted to the Official List.

Particulars relating to Allianz Versicherungs-AG are available in the statistical service of Exel Statistical Services Limited and will be available initially during normal business hours up to and including 16th October, 1981, from:-

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
23 Great Winchester Street, London EC2P 2AX

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited
120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS

Rowe & Pitman
City-Gate House, 39/45 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1JA

James Capel & Co.
Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street
London EC2N 1BQ

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

All markets awaiting the next move...

Much of the new interest-rate structure was put into place yesterday, leaving only the building societies to fall in line at the end of next week. The hope now must be that the correction in rates has been completed, though how far anyone is going to take that as a foregone conclusion is another matter. The domestic money markets could remain under considerable pressure as tax payments go through during the rest of the autumn, while nobody is going to take much on trust when it comes to dollar interest rates.

The key question for the authorities is whether institutional investors now feel confident enough to start putting fresh funds the Government's way. Certainly, the market is expecting a new issue this afternoon. If it does, it will be intriguing to see what kind of instrument it chooses to bring off the shelf. The aim ought to be to keep future funding costs to the minimum in the present circumstances.

Vickers

Accounting fog clears

Vickers mirrored the market mood yesterday, easing 1p to 146p on figures for the six months to June that were unexciting but in line with expectations. An accounting fog has surrounded Vickers since the merger last year with Rolls-Royce Motors, the receipt of compensation for nationalized aerospace and shipbuilding assets, negotiations with the Ministry of Defence following the loss of the Iranian tank-engine contract, and the sale of the International Machines Division of Roneo. For good measure, the group now has to calculate the likely cost of dealer bank borrowing, and the volatility of sterling.

However, the Group has helpfully set against the half-yearly pre-tax profit of £9.5m a comparable 1980 figure of £5.7m. This arrived at by deducting from an actual £12.6m nationalization interest compensation of £8.2m, and adding a pre-merger £1.3m for Rolls-Royce Motors earned in the comparable period. On the same basis, the actual historic profit for the whole of 1980 of £28.6m becomes a comparable £19.7m.

The credit for the £9.5m outturn went to Rolls-Royce Motors, and its booming North American car sales, accounted for in strong dollars. It also owed much to ballooning profits from the Australian company and something to South Africa.

Interest payable, less investment income, rose from £7.5m to £8.5m, and borrowings as a percentage of shareholders funds apparently remained at around 60 per cent. Vickers' shares were 216p earlier this year so the rights issue opportunity seems unlikely to reappear for a few months. Meanwhile, the latest jump in bank loan costs could absorb £2m to £3m in a full year and the group has no mainstream tax against which to offset it.

So market hopes of £25m pretax for the full year now look a bit high but the 3 per cent pretax margin on sales shows the potential of an engineering recovery. But of this there is still no sign. The yield, however, of 11.7 per cent takes a lot of the pain out of waiting.

Rights issues

Close calls

With this year's second wind of rights issues just getting into its stride after the bumper British Petroleum call in June, the last thing that was needed in the new

issue market was a major collapse in the equity market followed by a sharp rise in the cost of bank borrowing by industry.

But that is what we have had this week after yesterday's 2-point rise in base rates and virtually all of the rights issues currently underway are going to have a difficult time.

Morgan Crucible's £10.8m issue is the latest to get the thumbs down with only 14.5 per cent of the shares on offer finding takers. Trusthouse Forte did rather better with only a quarter of its issue not taken up and the other calls in the pipeline, including BICC's £59m issue which closes today, Fisons Minerals and John Brown, all look slightly better placed to escape the underwriters.

All the same the queue that seemed to be full up through to the end of the year will now be looking distinctly thin as companies draw back from committing themselves even though the latest rise in base rates will be putting some pressure on profit and loss accounts. Even so it has been a good year for the rights issue market — the latest Midland Bank figures show that the amount of new money raised so far this year is up from £868m to £2,867m — and shows that the City can do its bit when it comes to funding industrial investment.

Certainly, Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank handling the launch of Habitat, seemed quite relaxed yesterday with no shortage of applications for the 11m shares on offer at 110p of more. But new issues like Habitat do not come along every day and there will be none of the scramble for shares that originally looked likely to develop and prompted the tender sale to prevent the sort of underpricing that was embarrassing for issuing banks a year or two ago when they launched electronics issues.

Grattan

Through a bad patch

Grattan Warehouses's all-out onslaught to cut borrowings and rationalize has paid off with dramatically reduced interest charges in its spring-to-summer period. The fall in borrowings, from £35m to £14m at the last year-end, helped boost pretax profits by 20 per cent to £2.7m. Further benefits from lower interest charges, trimmed to £254,000 from £2m and lower provisions for bad-debts, down nearly a £1m at £2.3m, should be gained in the second half. Other savings will be made from reduced labour costs. These costs are already included in the £1.5m taken above the line.

At the trading level profits were down to £4.6m against £5.1m, but profits margins are healthier despite the £18m fall in sales, excluding VAT, to £92.7m. Full-year results obviously hinge on the pre-Christmas run-up, normally the busiest period, and trading remains tough for the mail-order sector competing with price-cutting in the High Street, and depressed demand.

Grattan is reluctant to forecast but looks on course for at least 16m profits this year which marks a heady step to recovery from the malaise of only nine months ago. Much of the success is attributed to the new management recruits from Great Universal Stores and the way the modernisation programme has been handled.

With the computerization project soon complete and the new Hong Kong buying office bringing the latest fashions to the 1982 spring/summer catalogue, Grattan looks set to be able to compete more efficiently. After a nervous 60p fall to 78p prior to the results, the shares added a like amount to 90p encouraged by higher market forecasts and the unchanged gross dividend at 2.6p which should help shareholders to stay with the companies now that the bad patch is past.

Learning to live with high interest rates

Kevin Page

INDUSTRY'S DEBT BURDEN

Company	Income gearing %	Rank	Income gearing %
Chloride Group	280.6	Rank Org	58.1
Meyer, Montague L	129.9	Babcock Int'l	58.9
Automotive Prods	115.9	Hewden-Stuart	57.9
Courtauld	99.2	Vickers	56.7
Bridon	99.1	Delta Group	55.9
Tozer, Kemeley	95.3	LCP Hds	55.4
Dunlop	94.8	Imp Cont Gas	54.5
Fisons	89.0	ICI	53.0
NCC Energy	82.9	Metal Box	50.9
Turner & Newall	75.0	Croda Int	50.8
Toolal	73.7	Ased Biscuit	50.8
Guest, Keen	73.1	Marley	50.8
Ocean Transport	68.0	Tube Investments	48.8
Pen & Orient	62.9	BOC Int	48.3

*Interest charges as a proportion of operating profit.
Source: dataSTREAM.

costs are the largest components of the total bill, productivity has been improving to the tune of 8 per cent so far this year.

So industry generally is in much leaner, fitter shape to withstand a regime of high interest rates.

Mr John Quinton, the senior general manager-designate at Barclays Bank, admits that yesterday's further rise will be a blow to industry.

"But it will not be a knock-out punch," he adds. Mr Quinton says the banks' lifeline for industrial companies facing temporary finan-

cial difficulties, will continue and help may have to be stepped up in some cases.

Meanwhile, "there may be some noisy collapses", although Mr Quinton believes the banks have already identified most of the ailing companies and that the numbers on the sick list have been reduced since this time last year.

He also has encouragement for those companies which must now pay 17 per cent or more on their overdrafts. Although he expects interest rates to stay at about present levels for the next two or

three months, there should be a significant decline early in 1982.

Mr Quinton's words should be treated with caution — as he himself would admit — since bankers were talking about lower rates six weeks ago before the present crisis blew up.

Even if higher rates, while a blow, are easier to handle than they were a year ago, several sectors and individual companies will be hit severely.

Among the victims will be those already suffering from intense international competition, especially low cost producers.

Companies engaged in producing clothes, carpets, footwear and general textiles, already reeling from cheap imports will find higher interest rates a further body blow.

Car manufacturers, particularly British Leyland, must pay more to finance their stocks during a slump in demand.

Automotive component companies will come under renewed pressure as will general engineering companies which figure prominently in the debt burden list.

The property sector will also be affected. But here companies have learnt their lessons from the 1974 collapse and are now better geared.

The private house building sector was showing signs of recovery in early spring when

house starts were beginning to climb. The two increases in interest rates should choke off this slight resurgence.

The beneficiaries of higher interest rates will be companies like GEC, which have large liquid balances.

The effect upon retailing companies is harder to predict because consumers have shown themselves capable of adapting to higher interest rates. Bank lending for white goods and items such as video-recorders, has been marked since the spring even with base rates at 14 per cent.

But for the economy as a whole, the increased interest rate burden on industry means that City economists are downgrading their growth forecasts.

Mr Paul Nield, economics guru at stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, says higher rates call into question the Chancellor's statements on the prospects for recovery. With industrial investment and stockbuilding, the latter action is to be his. Dr Nield is now gloomier about the economic picture for 1982.

But while there is little doubt that the events of the past two weeks have served to lengthen the recession and deepen the despair of the three million unemployed, the absence of rumours about the imminent collapse of a major company suggest industry is now better insulated against a long, cold winter.

Peter Norman examines the rescheduling agreement signed this week

Can Poland ever pay its way?



The economy is in tatters and food is in short supply but Warsaw's black market still thrives.

to restore an environment of confidence between Poland and its international creditors. But it fails to make any reference to Poland providing its bankers with detailed data on the workings of the Polish economy and its prospects. This emerged as a key issue in the discussions in view of the absence of in this case any independent authority such as the International Monetary Fund that could "audit" the performance of the economy.

It appears that the Banks have been forced to accept a settlement that is not wholly satisfactory, despite negotiations stretching over half a year.

The sluggish progress to what is only the second step along the road of rescheduling Poland's debt graphically

illustrates the power a debtor nation can exercise in negotiations with banks when its borrowings are of such a scale as to threaten the banking system.

The first agreement on rescheduling was as long ago as April 27 when Poland and representatives of its 15 major Western creditor nations decided to stretch over eight years some \$2,600m of official debt due in 1981.

For years to come the members of the 15-strong "Paris Club" of creditor nations and the banking task force can expect to be in perpetual negotiation over Poland's financial difficulties.

Moreover, Western governments must expect repeated requests for further aid to finance vital raw material and food imports and Poland's

balance of payments deficit with the West.

It is becoming traditional for the three-yearly European summit conferences of EEC leaders to be preceded by a carefully leaked request from the Poles for further food aid.

At the time of the first rescheduling exercise this year Poland was said to need about \$10,000m in debt relief and new financing to survive this year. Now, five months later, some Western bankers believe that Poland's new money requirement this year could still be as high despite rescheduling, EEC food aid, bilateral credits from Western countries and hard currency credits from Moscow.

The present performance of the Polish coal fields is one of the country's greatest econ-

omic weaknesses. Production in August was said to be 22.7 per cent below that of August last year. Whereas two years ago output of 207 million tonnes was envisaged for this year, Poland will be lucky to produce 170 million tonnes in 1981. August also saw dramatic falls in industrial production with the Polish press reporting a 25.6 per cent drop in car production and a 20 per cent fall in cement output.

In the agricultural sector the rate of slaughtering dropped by nearly a quarter and butter production by one fifth.

It is figures such as these that explain the total refusal of banks and the growing reluctance of governments to provide Poland with more finance.

A Polish request for \$500m of balance of payments assistance from Britain, France, West Germany, Switzerland and Italy had been shuffled back and forth between the finance ministries and central banks of Europe since the end of June.

Even West Germany, which is Poland's largest creditor in the West and feels a deep-seated historical obligation to help Warsaw, has so far been unable to approve lending its \$100m share to the Poles because of the budgetary risks. The 1982 West German Federal budget already contains a provision of 1,000 marks (£238m) to cover anticipated losses arising from guaranteed credits to Poland.

The problems being faced by Western bankers and governments because of Poland's massive debt to the West reflect the complete collapse of a once comforting theory. The idea that the Soviet Union would provide an umbrella guarantee for the borrowings of its Comecon satellites has been discredited.

The Soviet Union is lending hard currency to Poland but is also keeping Warsaw on a tight rein. The inability of Western governments and banks to be magnanimous towards Poland is likely to push the country further into the Soviet economic embrace.

Business Diary: Opticians take a dim view

Despite concern expressed by two government departments, the Advertising Standards Authority, the Office of Fair Trading and professional opticians, a South African marketing company is continuing to sell to British customers lensless spectacles which have been condemned as medically worthless and in some circumstances dangerous.

Apparently nobody can do anything about it because the spectacles are sold by direct mail from South Africa. The spectacles are called Lax-Optics, and cost £11 a pair. The black plastic eye-pieces are pierced with pinholes. It is well known that looking through a pinhole can temporarily sharpen focus.

But the claims that are made for them in the advertising literature go far beyond anything permitted under the British Code of Advertising Practice, and have been described by qualified opticians in Britain as scientific claptrap and spurious hogwash.

Mr Reg Pine of the Association of Optical Practitioners said: "This has been going on more than a year now. We have complained to every government body we could think of, and to the South African Optometric Association, all without effect."

"Lax-Optics cannot make any lasting improvement to anyone's eye sight. They could be dangerous in use, by obscuring vision, and might encourage people to put off seeking proper attention for their eyes."

The direct mail shots from

Wallchart

I WAS INTRIGUED BY AN ADVERTISEMENT THE OTHER DAY....

....THAT SAID THE ACCEPTED METHOD OF MEASURING THE INTERNAL CAPACITY OF A CAR IS TO FILL IT WITH PING-PONG BALLS.

THAT PROBABLY EXPLAINS SOME OF THE MYSTERIOUS RATTLES IN MINE....

the Institute for Vision Improvement, South Africa, are accompanied by "certified testimonials" from British customers. Two of the people whose names and addresses were quoted were contacted by Business Diary.

Neither had intended to supply a testimonial for quotation; neither now used the Lax-Optics they had purchased; both had been paid £40 by the Institute for Vision Improvement after complaining about the way in which their names had been used.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security said: "There seems little we can do to control this form of selling, unless we make an official complaint to the South African Government."

Demand pull

Not content with the havoc being wreaked by their theories on human beings, economists are beginning to pay their unwelcome attentions to defenceless animals.

In the latest issue of the American Economic Review, there is an earnest report of

experiments conducted into "Income Leisure Trade-offs of Animal Workers". For animal read bird; the animals in question are in fact male white carneau pigeons.

The poor creatures were first deprived of food, then made to "work" by pecking a key for access to the grain hopper. Well-paid birds had only to peck a few times to get the goodies. Low-paid birds had to peck up to 400 times.

The findings? Pigeons like it best if they can get food without having to do any work or, as the article puts it, "in choosing between working to obtain food or eating it from a source of continuously available free foods, animals show a near-exclusive preference for obtaining their food freely".

The more effort pigeons have to put in to get food (the more low-paid they are) the more likely they are to choose leisure rather than "work" if they get food for free. This is true even though "there is little else for the birds to do except preen themselves and walk about".

The income leisure trade-offs of pigeons are in many respects similar to those of humans, the study concludes. Animals, the researchers say, provide a vehicle for investigating economic theories "at relatively low cost, uncluttered by extraneous events likely to be encountered with comparable systems in national economic studies". And pigeons cannot vote, either.

Meals on wheels

Jim Sherwood, Sea Containers' American president, is hoping to unveil in November his resurrected Simpson-Orient Express, which promises to be the ultimate in nostalgic railway experience, after a series of uncharacteristic delays.

He bought the first of a fleet of old Pullman and Wagon-Lits coaches almost on impulse at a Monte Carlo auction in 1977 planning to reintroduce the splendours of 1920's rail travel from London to Istanbul where the old Orient Express went but to Venice where his London-based-leisure division already

owns the opulent Cipriani Hotel. Because restoring an old train and doing deals with several railway administrations has flummoxed him, the dynamic Sherwood, the first trip will be over a year late in May next year, but it sounds well worth waiting for.

For £225 single (compared with £74 by normal train) the noon departure will serve "Ascot lunch" (chicken, salmon and the like) on the way to Folkestone, followed by dinner between Boulogne and Paris, arriving about 9.30 pm. Sleeping through the Alps the traveller wakes to breakfast in Switzerland and lunch in Italy before arriving in Venice at about 2 pm.

At over £100 it has cost Sherwood, who has made millions out of hiring ships, cranes, and containers, it is twice what he planned; but he still hopes to make a profit. And maybe here he is a prophet.

A company in the United States is planning similar deluxe rail holidays at over £1,000 single New York to Los Angeles, over ten times the normal rail and 13 times the air fare.

Marketing naps from Portobello Road market: a woman saw on sale "rejuvenating cream" and asked the stallholder: "Is it really good?" "Good?" replied the man, and turning to a young girl beside him, he added: "Hand the lady a jar, mother."

Ross Davies

Technology

'Magnets' that look inside the body

the companies furthest ahead with medical NMR technology. But last July, in accordance with the group's policy of withdrawal from medical electronics, Thorn EMI sold its NMR interests to Picker International, an American-based subsidiary of Britain's General Electric Company (GEC).

Picker executives believe they can sell the system successfully in the United States — the main market for high-cost medical instruments (in NMR's case up to £500,000).

Picker and its competitors plan to use NMR primarily as an imaging technique, producing computerized pictures of living tissues rather like a CAT scan, but without the risks associated with X-rays. But there is another British firm in the forefront of medical NMR which is concentrating on a different aspect of the technology.

Oxford Instruments, a smallish Oxford-based company, is exploiting NMR not to make images but to detect the biochemical processes taking place in living tissue.

NMR is produced when certain atomic nuclei, which behave like tiny magnets, are placed in a strong steady magnetic field. If a second

field, alternating in the radio frequency range, is applied at exactly the same frequency — the so-called resonance frequency — the nuclei absorb the energy and reemit it as radio waves.

Early this year a group of Oxford University biochemists led by Dr George Radda, who have been working closely with Oxford Instruments, reported their first diagnostic success with Topical Magnetic Resonance (the Oxford researchers have given the name TMR to their application of NMR).

By monitoring the biochemical changes in a 51-year-old patient's arm, they discovered that he suffered from a rare genetic condition called McArdle's syndrome, which prevented his muscles obtaining enough energy to perform continuous exercise. The diagnosis revealed why the man had felt tired all his life.

But the medical promise of TMR extends far beyond the diagnosis of obscure diseases.

The present generation of Oxford Instruments TMR machines — priced at £200,000 each — are just big enough to take in a human arm or leg. But the company, which recently set up a subsidiary called Oxford Research Systems to develop TMR technology, is preparing an instrument capable of accommodating the whole body.

It will have a four-ton superconducting magnet with a 60 centimetre bore, which will encompass normal-sized but not obese patients, and is due to begin clinical trials at the Radcliffe Infirmary next year. The cost, £425,000, is not out of line with a sophisticated CAT scanner.

Clive Cookson



RESULTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1981

A summary of the unaudited consolidated results of Vickers Limited for the six months ended 30th June 1981 is shown below. The profit before tax was £9.5m. The comparable figure for 1980 was £5.7m. The £3.7m increase is the result of taking the £12.6m for Vickers less the exceptional interest received on nationalisation compensation relating to prior years of £8.9m and adding the profits of Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings of £1.1m reported for this period but which were before the merger. It also compares with £19.7m for the merged company for the whole of 1980 again excluding the exceptional prior years interest. Negotiations continue with the Ministry of Defence on the outstanding claims arising out of the premature cancellation in 1979 of the Iranian tank diesel engine contract. However, it is expected that these negotiations will be completed before the end of this year and we will then be able to report in our Accounts for 1981 the payments received and the accounting treatment which we have adopted. In the meantime £2.1m has been released from provisions already made to offset the costs and losses being incurred during this period at the Diesel Military Engine facility as a result of plant under-utilisation following the contract cancellation. Such costs and losses at the current level were not being incurred in the first half of 1980. For most of our UK engineering manufacturing businesses demand remains at a low level and consequently prices are extremely competitive. Trading results have improved somewhat as a result of de-manning and cost saving actions, and the change in the US dollar/sterling exchange rate has improved margins for trading in North America. At the Annual General Meeting in June, we indicated that although the year had started disappointingly, we foresaw that the results for the year as a whole should show some improvement over those of 1980; this has been borne out to date. We still see no signs of an upturn in the UK economy, and the recent increase in interest rates further adds to the burden of our costs and may well delay any increase in activity. Nevertheless present expectations are that profits for the year will exceed those of 1980 provided that the sterling equivalent of our sales denominated in foreign currencies is not unduly affected by a marked strengthening of the pound sterling against those currencies between now and the end of the year. The Directors have therefore declared an interim dividend of 4.55p (1980 4.55p) per £1 Ordinary Stock equivalent, with associated tax credit, to 6.5p (1980 6.5p) gross. The dividend will cost £3.3m and will be paid on 5th January 1982 to stockholders on the Register at 3rd December 1981.

Vickers Limited Unaudited half-year results Including Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings Limited with effect from 6th August 1980	Six Months to 30th June 1981	1980	Year 1980
Sales	£283.3	£210.6	£493.2
Consolidated trading profit before interest	17.8	11.6	35.5
Interest payable less investment income	8.5	7.5	16.3
Trading profit after interest	9.3	4.1	19.2
Exceptional interest received on compensation on nationalisation in respect of prior years	—	8.2	8.9
Associated Companies	0.2	0.3	0.5
Profit before tax	9.5	12.6	28.6
Taxation	2.6	2.6	1.8
Profit after tax	6.9	10.0	26.8
Minority interests	0.5	0.3	0.9
Stockholders' profit before extraordinary items	6.4	9.7	25.9
Preference dividends	0.2	0.2	0.4
Ordinary stockholders' profit before extraordinary items	6.2	9.5	25.5
Earnings per £1 of Ordinary Stock: Excluding interest on nationalisation in respect of prior years	8.5p	1.8p	22.7p
Including interest on nationalisation in respect of prior years	8.5p	13.0p	34.8p

Vickers Limited, Vickers House, Millbank, London SW1P 4RA

Co-op's market share slips as profits decline

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Co-op's share of the packaged grocery market declined by 0.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent in the six months. This is indicated in half-year results from the Manchester-based Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), the £1,800m sales manufacturer and wholesaler for Britain's 170 cooperative retail societies.

The decline in market share in the movement's most important retail sector comes after a 0.5 per cent drop during 1980. It underlines the increasing problems of the retail societies which last year saw profit falls of 15 per cent with a fifth of them hit by trading losses. There has been a wave of mergers involving weaker societies in the past year.

The CWS half-year results to June 27—an innovation by CWS which has previously reported only annually—showed a considerable trading profits recovery within CWS itself. But analysis of both its food sales, including fresh foods, and non-food sales indicates how the retail societies are faring.

The CWS six-month turnover of £840m was up 4 per cent compared with the same period last year. Food sales overall (with liquid milk sales and farming activities netted out) were up 7 per cent in value, just matching the sector inflation rate.

Non-food turnover at CWS was up only 2.1 per cent in the six months. This is less than the sector inflation rate although in some goods the rate is well under half that in the food sector.

CWS trading profits of £7.1m were 31.5 per cent up on the same period last year after the 1980 profits decline of 36 per cent. The food division, which accounts for £605m of the turnover, reported profits ahead of last year because of increased factory efficiency and changes in milk distribution, but the clothing and footwear division particularly is still badly hit by poor trading and is running at a loss.

Although the turnaround in the profits trend offers some encouragement for the CWS, its governing board strikes a note of caution about the rest of this year's trading. "It is too early to conclude that this advantage can be maintained for the year as a whole," the board says.

CWS, which last year closed five factories while injecting £21m in new capital investment, has this year so far closed a Scottish bakery and a print works at Reading, Berkshire. It is not yet clear how far this year's capital investment allocation of around £50m is likely to be taken up.

Williams & Glyn's Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from October 1st 1981, its Base Rate for advances is increased from 14% to 16% per annum.

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is increased from 11% to 14% per annum.

WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LTD

ESTATES AND GENERAL INVESTMENTS P.L.C.

Announcement of Unaudited Group Results for the Half Year ended 30th June 1981

	Half year to 30th June 1981	Half year to 30th June 1980	Year to 31st Dec 1980
Gross investment rental Property development etc. sales	746,000	714,000	1,423,000
TURNOVER	£1,706,000	£1,799,000	£3,787,000
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST	1,069,000	1,050,000	2,057,000
Interest payable	728,000	572,000	1,240,000
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	341,000	478,000	817,000
Estimated taxation	120,000	195,000	(738,000)
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	221,000	283,000	1,555,000
Minority interests	(8,000)	2,000	9,000
GROUP NET PROFIT	£229,000	£281,000	£1,564,000

Group results are broadly in line with the comparable period, except that interest payable is some £150,000 higher, reflecting the cost of the group's development programme for its investment portfolio. The Directors have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1981, of 0.8p per ordinary stock unit of 20p each on 18,186,418 units (1980—0.55p on 17,610,048 units) amounting to £108,959 (1980—£96,553). The interim dividend will be paid on 25th November, 1981, to ordinary stockholders on the register at the close of business on 28th October, 1981.

HANOVER INVESTMENTS (HOLDINGS) LTD

FORMERLY SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
STATEMENT TO SHAREHOLDERS BY
THE CHAIRMAN—CHARLES C. REDSTONE

- Shareholders will by now have become familiar with our recently adopted change of name following the disposal of our tobacco interests.
- The laundry division at this time represents a major part of the business of the company and continues to develop.
- The herbal division is profitable and opportunities for expansion are being pursued.
- With regard to our property investment no revised valuation, following satisfactory rent reviews, has been included in the Balance Sheet and to this extent the net asset value of 70.7p is understated.
- Suitable investments are being actively sought for our substantial cash resources which are benefiting from the current high interest rates.
- The Trading Profit for the year before tax amounted to £221,112 representing a gratifying improvement over the disappointing results for the previous year.

Brookgreen House, 25 Ravenscourt Park, London W6 0TL.

Business appointments

New head of ICI Americas

Mr Harry Corless is to become president and chief executive officer of ICI Americas Inc from April 1, 1982.

Mr Ray Barraclough has joined the board of USM-quoted Trust Securities Holdings as finance director.

Mr A. E. Hepper, a non-executive director of Richardsons, Westgarth is to become chairman on January 1. Mr A. D. McN. Boyd, present chairman, will continue as a non-executive director.

Sir Donald Hawley has joined the board of Ewbank and Partners.

Mr J. W. R. T. Middleton has been made secretary of Dobson Park Industries.

Mr David M. Taylor is now divisional director of construction with the Crown Agents.

Mr David Maddick has become technical director of components of Ultra Electronic Components.

Professor I. L. Dillamore, Professor of Metallurgy and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Aston, Birmingham, has been named director Inco's European Research and Development Centre, Birmingham.

Mr Philip Bushill-Matthews is joining the board of Birds Eye Walls as sales director. Mr A. P. Hall has been made chief executive of Turriff Corporation's construction and property activities and a member of the main board.

Mr A. J. Beeson is now marine underwriter, London, marine department, Royal Insurance (UK).

Mr David Moreau has joined the main board of Dewplan. Mr Charles Murray, financial director, is to take over as

senior financial director of John Walker and Sons.

Mr A. S. W. Abell has been made contracts director of Thorne-Astor.

Mr Dennis S. Greensmith is to join the board of Bentalis in a non-executive capacity.

Mr H. A. Ray is reappointed as a member of the Hops Marketing Board.

Mr Patrick Hodgson, an assistant director of J. Henry Schroder Wagg, has been seconded for two years to the projects and export policy division at the Department of Trade, as financial adviser (assistant secretary).

Mr N. E. K. Openshaw has been made an executive director of McLeod Russell.

Mr Joseph J. Ruane has been named president of Glaxo Inc, Glaxo Group's US subsidiary.

Sir Ronald Ellis has joined Yarrow and Company as a non-executive director.

Mr James H. Vaughan, formerly chairman of Fred S. James and Company, and Mr J. A. Hill, formerly chairman of the Aetna Insurance Company, have joined the board of their American associate, Republic Hogg Robinson.

Mr W. J. Hayden takes over the new post of deputy chairman of Property Partnerships. Mr Christopher Bins, managing director of the wholly-owned subsidiary, Property Partnerships (Hotels) is to join the main board.

Mr I. A. Martin and Mr C. Strowger have become joint managing directors of Watney Mann and Truman Brewers. Mr J. N. Hoyle has been made managing director of Watney International and Mr R. H. Soames, divisional director, trade relations.

Mr Harvey Starey has been made a director of Hill Samuel Investment Management International.

Mr J. D. Lloyd becomes a director of London and Liverpool Trust.

Mr A. I. Bremner has been made director of Richards Longstaff (Holdings). Mr D. R. Barnfather has become director of Richards Longstaff.

Mr Roger Phillips has joined the board of Feachurch Marine Brokers.

Mr Francis S. Thyne, deputy managing director and sales director of William Thyne, is to become managing director.

Mr R. S. Leighton, a director of Rouse Woodstock, is to join the board of Rouse Woodstock International.

Mr Malcolm S. Mackenzie has been made assistant managing director of International Harvester Company. His former post as director of finance has been taken up by Mr Patrick S. Jones.

Mr Deryk Vander Weyer has been made a part-time member of the British Telecommunications Corporation for three years from Oct 1.

Mr G. Lenton has been appointed a director of the Kellogg Trust. Mr R. B. Martin takes over as secretary.

Brent Chemicals

Half-time figures from Brent Chemicals show pretax profits of £1.8m for the half-year to June against £1.5m over the same period last year. The results were helped by a fall in the insurance charge on group debts from £237,000, to £82,000. The group says it expects its overseas operations to expand but says it is difficult to see any significant increase in United Kingdom earnings.

MITCHELL COTTS

International Engineering, Transportation and Trading

1980/81 RESULTS (unaudited)

- * Profits maintained
- * Continued growth of Engineering and Transportation

	Years ended 30th June 1981	1980
Profit before Interest and Taxation	£2,000	£2,000
Interest	14,967	13,334
Profit before Taxation	5,828	4,318
Taxation	9,139	9,016
Profit after Taxation	3,897	3,961
Minority Interests	5,242	5,055
Profit before Extraordinary Items	1,957	1,538
Extraordinary Items	3,285	3,517
Earnings per Share (net basis)	5.82p	6.57p
Extraordinary Items	2,717	(223)
Net Attributable Profit	6,002	3,294

ANALYSIS BY ACTIVITY

	Turnover £000s	1981 Profit £000s	%	Turnover £000s	1980 Profit £000s	%
Engineering	167,985	9,729	70	117,574	8,332	66
Transportation	148,687	4,123	29	119,529	3,389	27
Trading	46,654	98	1	67,756	898	7
Group Expenses & Interest	363,326	13,950	100	294,859	12,619	100
		(4,811)			(3,603)	
		9,139			9,016	

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY

	United Kingdom	94,209	2,057	15	93,217	3,281	26
	Southern Africa	212,099	9,851	71	151,869	8,072	64
	East and Central Africa	15,384	1,311	9	18,052	1,421	11
	Belgium, Americas, Australasia	41,634	731	5	31,721	(155)	(1)
Group Expenses & Interest	363,326	13,950	100	294,859	12,619	100	
		(4,811)			(3,603)		
		9,139			9,016		

Mitchell Cotts Group Limited
Cotts House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7BJ
Telephone: 01-283 1234. Telex: London 8814641
This Report and Accounts will be printed to shareholders on 20th November 1981.

TSB BASE RATE

With effect from the close of business on Friday, 2nd October, 1981 and until further notice TSB Base Rate will be 16% per annum

TSB
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Central Board,
P.O. Box 33, 3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2P 2AB.

Barclays Bank Interest Rates.

BASE RATE.

Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 1st October, 1981, their Base Rate was increased from 14% to 16% per annum. This new rate applies also to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.

RATES FOR SAVERS.

Bonus Savings and Payplan Accounts.
Interest paid was increased from 13% to 15% per annum.

Ordinary Deposit Accounts.
Interest paid was increased from 11% to 14% per annum.



BARCLAYS

Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, EC3P 3AH. Reg. No's 48339, 92088 and 1025167.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Interest charge slows Mitchell Cotts

By Rosemary Unsworth

Engineering and transportation activities at Mitchell Cotts, formerly known for its international trading, provided virtually all of the group's profits last year and enabled it to show a slight improvement at the pre-tax level.

With turnover up from £294.8m to £363.3m in the year to June 30, pre-tax profits rose from £98.1m to £101.1m, after a slight improvement at the pre-tax level.

Mr. Philip Dunkley, the chairman, said that profits from engineering and transportation, which have been increasing over

the years, now represent 99 per cent of group profits with the traditional trading arm contributing the balance. Engineering profits went from £8.3m to £9.7m, a 70 per cent of group profits, while transport made £4.1m against £3.4m.

Trading was the exception and its profits fell from £88,000 to £98,000. On a geographical basis, the United Kingdom, where profits declined from £3.3m to £2m and east and central Africa, where profits dipped from £1.4m to £1.3m, were the two areas showing a downturn.

Southern Africa's contribution rose by £1.8m to £3.8m, and there was a £900,000 turn round from loss to profit of £731,000 in Belgium, Australasia and the Americas.

Below the line, the compensation settlement in Uganda, where the group has resumed its real estate development with President Obote's government, produced an extraordinary credit of £23.7m, compared with a £233,000 loss last time.

Mr Peter Mackenna, group finance director, and Mr A. P. Ballahyne-Evans, director, are today departing for Ethiopia

where they have been invited to discuss compensation terms for the group's cotton plantation, which was nationalized in 1975. They will ask for £7.6m.

Since the year end, £2.4m has been raised from the sale of a South African factory as part of a plan to show a £5m profit on property translation in that country by the end of this financial year.

Mr Dunkley explained that the group had decided to alter its policy of owning all its own premises. The total dividend, covered 1.5 times on a historic basis, is maintained at 5.15p gross.

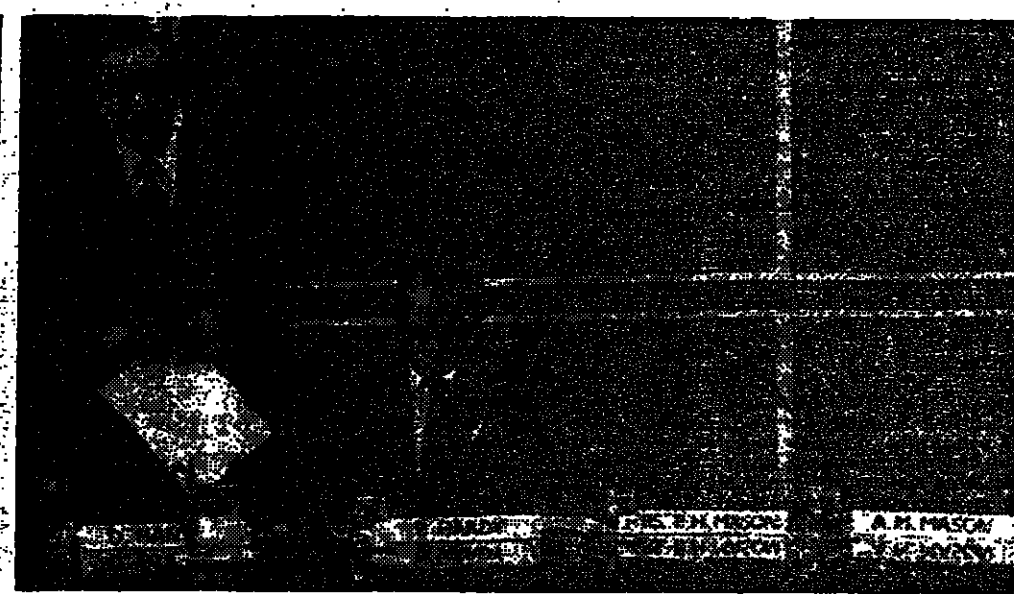
London shop group pays more

By Peter Wainwright

London Shop Property Trust, the retail and commercial property investment company which quarrelled publicly with its big shareholder, McLeod Russell, over the £4.87m issue of convertible loan stock last spring, has reported on its financial year to last April.

The board says that property sales have reduced net borrowings and interest charges. So dividend cover no longer depends on property trading or housebuilding. Pyrex profits marked time at £1.1m, and this was after a fall in interest from £1.26m to £787,000.

Though earnings a share fell from 7.1p to 6.8p, the total dividend rises from 4.4p gross to 5.36p, and the directors foresee a satisfactory trend of increasing dividends over the next few years. As a share, fully diluted and put at 476.5p, McLeod Russell bought into London Shop at an average of 112p last December and purchased in March, taking the holding to 20 per cent helped the shares to 132p. The shares eventually reached 140p. But McLeod opposed the convertible issue and threatened to sell its stake. The issue was only 29 per cent taken up by ordinary shareholders and the rest was left with underwriters. However, McLeod held on to its stake and it has now bought 28,492 more ordinary shares and £10,500 of the 64 per cent convertible stock. But the shares are still only 103p, 20p up in two days.



Mr Donald Hanson, chairman of Illingworth Morris, speaking at the shareholders' meeting with the empty seats of Mrs Pamela Mason and Mr Morgan Mason, her son.

No showdown at Illingworth

By Philip Robinson

The expected stormy meeting between directors of Yorkshire textile group, Illingworth Morris and shareholders ended in less than 15 minutes yesterday.

Neither Hollywood chat show hostess Mrs Pamela Mason, nor her son Morgan attended any of the three shareholders' meetings which have now been adjourned to October 26.

Mrs Mason had intended to vote a 46 per cent stake to oust Illingworth's chairman, Mr Donald Hanson, and its joint

chief executive, Mr Peter Hardy. They in turn were asking shareholders to remove Mrs Mason and her son as directors of the company.

But last week's High Court hearing, brought by relatives and trustees of the estates of the late co-founders of Illingworth, Mr Isadore and Mr Maurice Ostrer, ended in an agreement to maintain the status quo in the boardroom until a full High Court hearing due on October 16.

Mrs Mason's half sister, Mrs Isabella Blench, whose appli-

cation to replace Mrs Mason as executrix of the estate will be heard next May, is applying for an injunction preventing Mrs Mason from voting the shares to oust Mr Mason and Mr Hardy, and for a receiver to be appointed to the Ostrer estate.

A second petition is being brought by the executors of the Maurice Ostrer estate to wind up the company, Lotherbury, through which the Illingworth votes are controlled by Mrs Mason.

Half-time record at Bowthorpe

By Margaret Pagan

Bowthorpe Holdings, the low-technology electronic components group which sells half its products overseas, has achieved record profits in the half-year to June 30.

But this, says Mr Ray Parsons, executive chairman, has been managed only by a continuous programme of cost reduction both at home and abroad. "Price increases have only been possible to a limited extent. Our subsidiary companies and divisions are now tailored in line with production requirements to meet our outstanding order-book," he adds.

Pre-tax profits rose by 12 per cent to £5.6m on world sales that increased £2m to £31m. Shareholders are getting a higher half-year dividend of 2.17p gross, against 1.8p last year. The shares, well pleased by the news, gained 12p to 177p.

In 1980, the group made profits of £9.05m on turnover of £54m and Mr Parsons is predicting increased profits this year.

Ward White plans bid for Hiltons

Ward White, the footwear

manufacturer, and engineering group, wants to open talks with Hiltons Footwear about a cash takeover offer, two days after George Oliver (Footwear) and Hiltons announced a proposed merger.

After the announcement that Ward White had instructed its brokers to acquire shares in the market yesterday Hiltons shares gained 30p to 102p but the Hiltons board later told shareholders to take no action. At these levels Hiltons has a market capitalization of more

than £6m.

The merger would create a 300 strong retail chain and would give Oliver a 57.5 per cent stake and Hiltons a 42.5 per cent holding. Mr Philip Birch, chairman-elect of Ward White and managing director, said his group decided to make the move as it would unite its 100 retail outlets with Hiltons 190 shops without any substantial geographical overlap.

At the same time Ward White announced a small fall in pre-tax profits from £1.8m to £1.4m in the six months to June 30.

Hanson climbs 21 pc

A 21 per cent jump in pre-tax

profits to £40m for the ten months to July 31 was reported yesterday by Hanson Trust in the formal offer for the Berec Ever-Ready batteries group. This is more than the total of £39.1m for the whole of last year.

Berec's record, showing profits down from £29m in 1977 to £10.5m in 1981, is contrasted in a letter from Sir James Hanson with Hanson's 17 years of uninterrupted profit

and dividend growth and its 400 per cent gain in share value over the last ten years.

The Berec board's record is described as "abysmal". He adds: "In 1979 and 1980 the board's profit expectations at the half-way stage were not fulfilled. In October 1980, Mr Colin Stapleton, the Berec chairman, forecast 'profits for the year broadly similar to those for last year' but they fell short of the mark by £6.7m, a fall of nearly 40 per cent.

Appleyard shareholder loses rights

After a resolution passed at the recent annual meeting, giving the Appleyard Group the right to disenfranchise shareholders, a Swiss company, notified by the registered holder as being interested in 405,000 ordinary shares (5.1 per cent), is unable to answer Appleyard's enquiries in respect of 230,000 ordinaries: the holder of these shares has, therefore, been disenfranchised. Meanwhile, the enquiry process is continuing in respect of the balance of its holding of 175,000 shares and if those enquiries are not satisfactorily answered, the Appleyard board will disenfranchise the holder of those shares.

Provincial Insurance General written premiums at Provincial Insurance for the half-year to June 30, 1981, were £44.4m, up from £42.7m. General business underwriting profit was £547,000 against a loss of £1.07m. Pre-tax profits were £5.01m compared with £2.8m.

The interim dividend was 11.4p gross against 9.7p.

Hallite Holdings

General Tire and Rubber, South Africa, has emerged as the purchaser on September 28 of some 260,403 ordinary shares in Hallite Holdings. This is equal to 14.9 per cent.

Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society has reduced its holding of Hallite ordinary shares from 122,000 (5.08 per cent) to 60,000 (2.50 per cent).

Federated Land

Following the acquisition by M. P. Kent on September 25 of a 14.7 per cent interest in Federated Land, the Federated board says that M. P. Kent has not approached it and it has no knowledge of Kent's intentions.

However, it is open to M. P. Kent to make further share purchases in the market. The board's view is that Federated's net asset value on a comparable basis is well in excess of the book value of 140p per share, as shown by the 1980 published accounts.

Eastern-Blantyre

Eastern Produce (Holdings) has bought 167,500 shares (8.77 per cent) of Blantyre Tea Holdings at 69p a share. Eastern now owns 637,120 shares (34.4 per cent). Lawrie Plantations, an Eastern associate, owns 89,816 shares (4.7 per cent). Eastern, under the City Code, will now make a bid for the remaining shares at 69p.

Salton merger

Salton Ltd, the Twickenham-based electrical appliance manufacturer and distributor, is to merge with the original American company, Salton Inc, under a new banner, Salton Holdings.

The deal has come about through an acquisition of Salton Inc by the United Kingdom company, Bromine, and will involve an injection of £1.4m new capital into the American operation.

Midland Bank Base Rate

Midland Bank Limited announces that with effect from Thursday, 1st October 1981, its Base Rate is increased by 2% to 16% per annum.



Deposit Accounts. From Thursday, 1st October 1981, interest paid on accounts held at branches and subject to 7 days' notice of withdrawal has been increased by 3% to 14% per annum. Abatement allowance on ledger credit balances for current accounts which are subject to the standard personal current account tariff and do not qualify for free terms will be 10% p.a.

Midland Bank

Home Charm Limited

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR TO 4th JULY, 1981

	Half Year	1980	Full Year
Sales	£36.2m	£28.6m	£59.9m
Profit before tax	£1.24m	£0.64m	£1.62m
Attributable profit	£1.20m	£0.60m	£1.45m
Earnings per share	8.5p	4.3p	10.8p
Dividend per share	0.85p	0.7p	2.5p

- * Substantial improvement in Group profits: sales up 28.5% with pre-tax profit up 93.7% to £1.24m.
- * Selling area increased by 400,000 sq. ft. over past 2 years.
- * Benefits of this expansion are now beginning to materialise.
- * Selling area currently 1,045,000 sq. ft., with further additions planned for 1982.
- * Shareholders' funds now exceed £10.5m.

Cline Road, New Southgate, London N11 2NA

TEXAS HOME CARE

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on October 2nd, 1981, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be increased from 14 per cent to 16 per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's Demand Deposit Accounts will be at the rate of 14½ per cent per annum.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ
Telephone: 01-628 8011

ANZ BANK

Base rate

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited announces that on and after 2nd October 1981 its base rate will be

16% per annum

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED
(Incorporated in New Zealand)
56 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0BN Tel: 01-623 7111



Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

Lloyds Bank Limited has increased its Base Rate from 14% to 16% p.a. with effect from Thursday, 1st October 1981.

Other rates of interest are increased as follows:

- 7-day notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts - from 11.5% to 14% p.a.
- Special Savings Plan - from 13.5% to 15.5% p.a.
- Cashflow Account credit balances - from 8% to 10% p.a.

The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of

Lloyds Bank International Limited
The National Bank of New Zealand Limited

Lloyds Bank Limited, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3JN.

AIR CALL communications



AIR CALL LIMITED

Summarised extracts from the Chairman's Statement for the six months ended 30th June, 1981

Group turnover showed a 23% growth rate compared with the same period last year and the profit before taxation of £437,000, achieved in spite of the recession, shows a significant improvement in Group profitability.

The problems on the supply and installation of new equipment are now behind us and we are receiving the full benefits of our capital investment programme.

The profit on the sale of Pony Express International Limited is included in Extraordinary items.

Sales of radio telephone and paging services have been very satisfactory and improved services and new facilities are proving popular with subscribers. The prospects for further development of our communication services look exciting.

An interim dividend of 1.85p per share will be paid on 9th November, 1981. This compares with an interim dividend of 1.575p per share which would have been paid in respect of the year to 31st December, 1980, had the proceeds of the issue in May 1980 been available for a full year.

National Westminster Bank Limited

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 2nd October, 1981, its Base Rate is increased from 14% to 16% per annum. The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are increased from 11½% to 14½% per annum.

Grindlays Bank Limited Interest Rates

Grindlays Bank Limited announces that its base rate for lending will change

from 14% to 16% with effect from Friday 2nd October 1981

The interest rates paid on call deposits will be: call deposits of £1,000 and over 14% (call deposits of £300-£999 13%)

Rates of interest on fixed deposits of over £5,000 will be quoted on request. Enquiries: Please telephone 01-930 4611



Head Office: 23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED

Standard Chartered announces that on and after 1st October, 1981 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 14% to 16% p.a.

The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal will be increased from 11½% to 14½% p.a. The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days' notice of withdrawal will be increased from 12½% to 15½% p.a.

Standard Chartered Bank Limited

STEINBERG GROUP LIMITED

52 weeks ended March 28th, 1981

* Group loss before tax £834,000 (1980 profit £553,000). Nominal dividend of 0.01p per share making a total of 0.02p for the year.

* Efforts continue to reduce costs, increase efficiency and improve and adapt products to suit market.

* Operating structure reorganised to concentrate on main activities and provide a firm base to build a return to profits.

Extracted from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Jack Steinberg at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 1st, 1981.



The Royal Bank of Scotland

INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 1st October 1981 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 14 per cent per annum to 16 per cent per annum

As from the 1st October 1981 the rate of interest on Investment Accounts will be increased to 14½ per cent per annum for quarterly paid interest and 14½ per cent per annum for monthly paid interest. The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will be increased to 14 per cent per annum.

**THE HONGKONG
BANK GROUP**

announces that
on and after

2nd October, 1981

the following annual rates
will apply

Base Rate . . . 16%
(Previously 14%)

Deposit Rate (basic) 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
(Previously 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)

**The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation**

**The British Bank
of the Middle East**

Mercantile Bank Limited

Antony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.

700 per grade; three months
 futures, 700-710; 100-110; 200-
 210; 300-310; 400-410; 500-
 510; 600-610; 700-710; 800-
 810; 900-910; 1000-1010; 1100-
 1110; 1200-1210; 1300-1310; 1400-
 1410; 1500-1510; 1600-1610; 1700-
 1710; 1800-1810; 1900-1910; 2000-
 2010; 2100-2110; 2200-2210; 2300-
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 27810; 27900-27910; 28000-28010; 28100-
 28110; 28200-28210; 28300-28310; 28400-
 28410; 28500-28510; 28600-28

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments

LA CREME DE LA CREME

OMAN

An extremely responsible but fun loving companion is needed with some urgency to become mentor and friend to a 13 year old girl living in Muscat. The successful candidate is likely to be under 37 with a warm and gentle nature contained in a well balanced personality. An exceptional salary will match an exceptional applicant.

Directors' Secretaries
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Tel: 01-629 9323

READING

SENIOR SECRETARY

We need a top class secretary for the senior partner of a small dynamic and fast growing firm of commercial property surveyors in Reading. The job offers lots of interest and variety dealing with a wide range of important clients. You will need a cheerful personality, initiative, have first class secretarial skills (the shorthand), a good memory and be able to work under pressure. We think someone under 38 is not likely to have the experience this job demands. The right applicant will have a substantial salary with 4 weeks holiday, 5 day week and own office.

Please contact: Elizabeth Colbeck
48 Queens Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4HU
0734 585727

SECRETARIAL

PUBLISHING PA/SEC.

£2,500 rising to £3,000. Excellent opportunity for a young person to gain experience in a dynamic and fast growing publishing firm. The job involves a wide range of secretarial duties and offers excellent career prospects. Please contact: Elizabeth Colbeck, 48 Queens Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4HU, 0734 585727.

YOU DESERVE THE BEST SERVICE

DRAKE PERSONNEL

in the paper next week.

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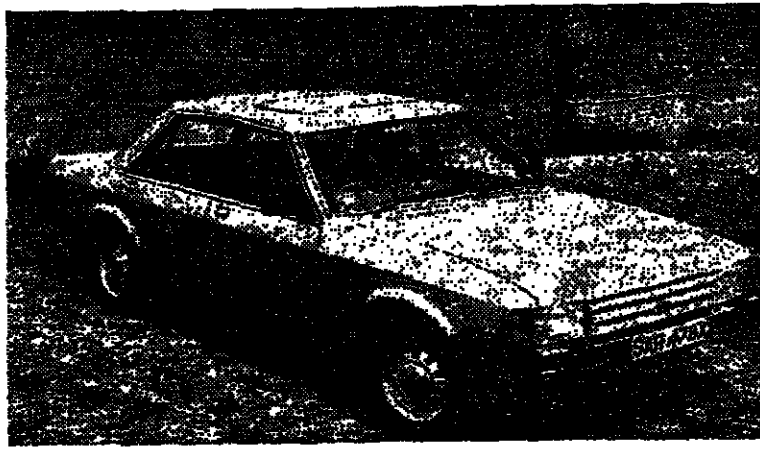
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Granada goes up market in big car slump



Suspension puzzle — the revised Ford Granada

Though the Ford Granada is still Britain's best-selling large car, it has suffered from the general slump in its part of the market in the last couple of years and the recently announced revisions to the range could come from Ford's point of view, have come at a better time.

The so-called executive car sector, in which the Granada competes with models like the Rover, Audi 100, Volvo 240 series, Talbot Tagora and Vauxhall Viceroy and Royale, declined by 30 per cent in 1980 and suffered a further 22 per cent slide in the first half of this year, though there have been signs recently of a modest recovery.

Sales of the Granada have fallen by more than the average for the class and Mr Sam Toy, chairman of Ford of Britain, has even suggested that by the middle of the 1980s the large car could be replaced by the Granada is being developed, it might not go into production.

As for the Granada, it says much for Ford's resources that it can afford to spend the money on a replacement for the Granada is being developed, it might not go into production.

If anything, the changes take the Granada up the market. They include new seats, returned suspension and modifications to the brakes, clutch and power steering. Low maintenance batteries and longer lasting exhaust systems are fitted and there are new optional extras, such as electrically adjustable front seats, power operated sunroof and a 12-function trip computer.

The most significant change is to the suspension. Ride quality has not been Ford's strongest point and was the one big blemish on the otherwise excellent new Granada. The latest Granada has softer springs front and back and revised damper settings, and there is a thicker front anti-roll bar.

My experiences with the ride of the new Granada have been strangely contradictory. Trying

the car on Ford's proving ground at Loughborough, in Belgium, where rough surfaces test a vehicle to its limits, I was most impressed by the manner in which the suspension soaked up the bumps with little feeling of wallow. It seemed a great improvement.

Borrowing a car later for a longer test, I found almost the opposite. The merest departure from a totally smooth road surface caused a degree of crashing and lurching that made me fear for the stomachs of my backseat passengers. Ford has assured me that the vehicle had worn shock absorbers and that my experience was atypical. Since other testers have tended to praise the ride, I am happy to take Ford's word for it.

Handling appeared to be a little less crisp than before, more like that of a French car than the German design that the Granada has. For those who would have it otherwise, there is, however, a 2.8 injection model with a "sports" suspension.

The new seats are well shaped and attractively trimmed, and on most models they offer the driver and front seat passenger adjustable lumbar support. Indeed, the whole interior gives a feel of quality, as well as being very roomy.

Curiously, since none of the

changes is claimed to have been in this area, the feature of the revised Granada that struck me most was its refinement. The engines, whether the smaller 2.3 litre or the more powerful 2.8, are exceptionally smooth and quiet.

For performance, Ford offers a characteristically wide choice, from a leisurely two litre, through an adequate 2.3 to the fast injected 2.8, which is a match for almost any car in the class.

For the best fuel consumption, there is the 2.1 litre diesel, otherwise the cars are a shade on the thirsty side. On the 2.6 litre automatic I returned 18 to 24 miles to the gallon.

The new Granada range comprises 19 versions, starting at £7,240 for the 2000i and rising to £12,995 for the 2800i Ghia estate.

Cushioning children

From this month, all new cars sold in Britain have to be fitted with anchorage points for rear seat belts and it may be only a matter of time before the British Government decides to extend the law to European countries, including France, Germany and Sweden, in making not only the anchorage but the belts themselves a legal requirement.

It is a development that will be watched with particular interest by two companies involved in the car restraints business, Klippan and K.L. Automotive Products. Klippan, which claims to be the largest supplier of seat belts in Europe, has devised a new booster cushion to improve the safety of children in cars; it is already on sale in Germany and Sweden and now K.L. which makes child seats and harnesses, is to market it here.

The cushion idea is by no means new. Volvo, for example, has been selling one for some time. But the entry of Klippan into the field must increase interest in this type of product, which has in any case been given topical relevance by the clause in the new Transport Act which will forbid children to travel in the front seats of cars unless they are properly restrained.

The cushion is designed to be used with an adult seat belt and has the effect of raising the child to prevent "submarining" under impact, when the child's body can dive feet first, with the result that the diagonal part of the belt can wrap round the child's neck and cause severe, possibly fatal, injuries. The research suggests that on balance it is better for children to wear adult belts than none at all.

The Klippan product, to be known as the Klippi, is a bright orange cushion, made of tough foam rubber, with two "ears" which hook on to the lap part of the belt. By lifting the child a few inches, the cushion ensures that the diagonal belt goes round the shoulder, rather than the neck.

The booster cushion is suitable for children between the ages of, roughly, four to 12, depending on build. At the lower age range, it is a safety device, rather than a comfort device, though for children under four the seat is the better arrangement. As it fits existing seat belts, and can be easily removed, the Klippi is a flexible device, either a seat or a safety device.

The Klippi will cost about £20 (with some outlets offering discounts), which is similar to the price of a harness but £10 to £15 cheaper than a safety seat.

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